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NUT FOR GUITARS AND SIMILAR INSTRUMENTS

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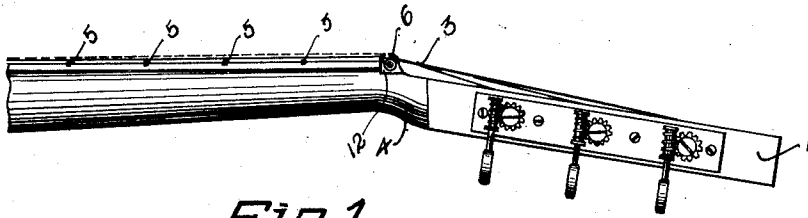


Fig. 1

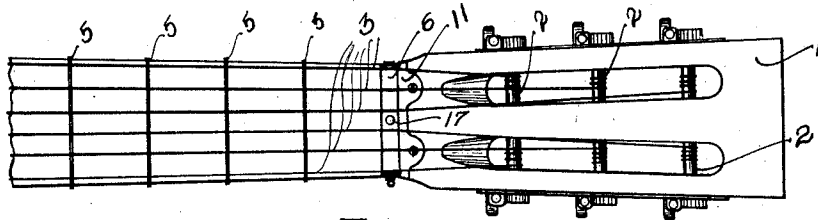


Fig. 2

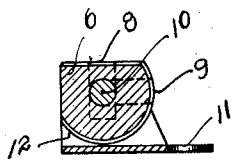


Fig. 6

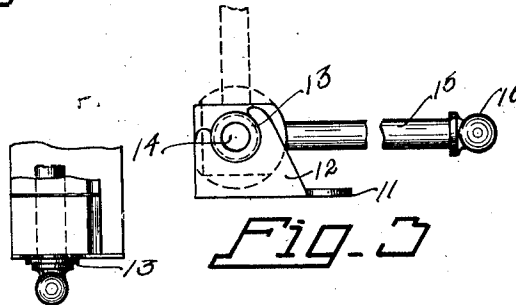


Fig. 4

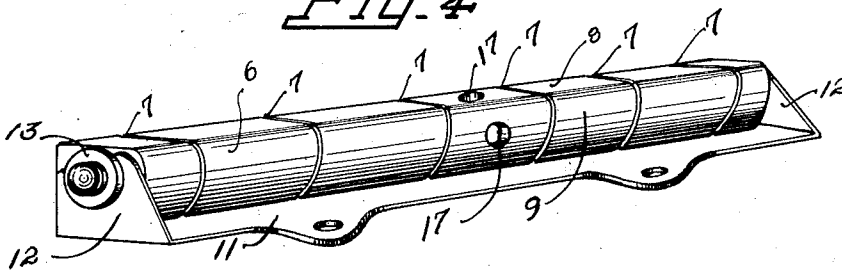


Fig. 5

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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NUT FOR GUITARS AND SIMILAR INSTRUMENTS.

Application filed May 13, 1922. Serial No. 560,573.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that we, THOMAS B. LAMBERT and LAWRENCE E. LIVELY, citizens of the United States, residing at Spokane, in Spokane County and State of Washington, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Nuts for Guitars and Similar Instruments, of which the following is a specification.

Our present invention relates to improvements in nut for guitar and similar instruments or devices for use in connection with string musical instruments, especially guitars, for simultaneously shortening all the strings of the instrument for the purpose of changing the pitch of the instrument. The device is especially adapted for use while playing music of the Hawaiian type, and because of its simplicity in construction and operation, may be employed when necessary with facility and convenience. The device is designed for use under normal conditions as one of the customary frets of the guitar, and is readily adapted for conversion as a fretted bridge for the strings of the instrument when a change in the tone of the instrument is desirable. With convenience and dispatch the device may be brought into use by the musician, and the results of its use attained in an artistic manner without loss of time or interference with the playing movements of the musician.

The invention consists in certain novel combinations and arrangements of parts as will be hereinafter more fully described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings we have illustrated one complete example of the physical embodiments of our invention wherein the parts are combined and arranged according to the best mode we have thus far devised for the practical application of the principles of our invention.

Figure 1 is a side view showing a portion of the neck of a guitar and its peg box, and illustrating the device of the invention in normal position beneath the strings of the instrument.

Figure 2 is a face view of the device of Figure 1.

Figure 3 is an end view of the device of the invention, showing in full lines the key-lever ready for use, and in dotted lines showing the position of the key lever when

the device is turned to position for use as a capo tasto.

Figure 4 is a top view of the device of the invention, at one end thereof.

Figure 5 is a perspective view of the device of the invention.

Figure 6 is a transverse sectional view of the tone changing device.

In order that the utility of the device may be understood a sufficient portion of a guitar has been illustrated to show the relation of parts. The peg box 1 and pegs 2, may be of usual or suitable construction, the former being formed as an extension of the neck 4, and the usual or customary frets 5 are indicated in Figures 1 and 2.

The capo tasto device 6 is a bar of wood, or other suitable material, located transversely of the neck 4 of the guitar, and of sufficient length to accommodate the six strings of the guitar. Under normal conditions the bar 6 forms one of the frets of the instrument and is fashioned with a series of spaced grooves 7 extending around its exterior across the flat face 8 and a rounded face 9, the latter, as best seen in Figure 6, being spaced farther from the axis of the bar than the former. In normal position the flat face 8 forms the upper surface of the fret, while the rounded face 9, when utilized, elevates the strings as indicated in dotted lines Figure 1.

A central longitudinal bar or rod 10 is extended through the bar 6, with its projecting ends forming trunnions for the bar, and these trunnions are supported from a metal plate 11 which is provided with slotted ears or bearing flanges 12. As shown these bearing flanges project perpendicularly from the plate, which lies flat upon the neck of the guitar, and the trunnions are journaled in the slotted bearing flanges in order that the bar may be turned on its rod or shaft, a collar 13 being provided at each end of the shaft to retain the trunnions in their bearing flanges.

One of the trunnions, at its end is fashioned with a pocket 14 extending longitudinally of the rod in which a key-lever 15 is stored when not in use, a head or handle 16 being fashioned on the lever for convenience in use, as well as for ornamentation. The key lever is designed for use in turning the bar 6 on its trunnions, and the bar is fashioned with a pair of angu-

larly disposed sockets or openings 17 radiating from the longitudinal center of the bar, and adapted to receive the end of the key-lever.

5 In Figures 1 and 2 the device is in position for use with the guitar under normal conditions, the bar being used with its flat face 8 uppermost as a fret, and the key lever 15 stored within its pocket in the shaft of the bar 6. When it is desired to increase the tension of the strings 3 for changing the pitch of all the strings, the key lever may with facility be withdrawn from its pocket and inserted in the proper socket, and the lever given a turn through an arc of ninety degrees. By turning the bar 6, the flat face 8 is turned from supporting the strings, and the rounded face 9 is turned upwardly. The strings are retained in their respective grooves of the bar 6, and as the bar is turned they are elevated from the adjacent frets, as indicated in dotted lines Figure 1, thus presenting the strings in position for the required manipulation or fingering. After the bar has been turned as desired, the key lever is of course removed and stored in its pocket until again required. When so required the key lever is withdrawn from its pocket and

again inserted in a socket and the bar 30 turned back on its trunnions in the bearing flanges, to its original normal position, and the key lever of course removed.

The bar is held in its adjusted position by the tension of the strings, in both its normal position and in its converted position, but may be moved or turned by utilization of the key lever, with facility, by manipulating the lever as indicated in Figure 3. 40

Having thus fully described our invention, what we claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:—

A pitch changing device for use on the neck of a guitar or like instrument comprising a bar fashioned with exterior grooves for strings and formed with a flat face and an enlarged rounded surface, a journal support for said bar, trunnions on the bar journaled in said support, one of said trunnions having a longitudinally extending pocket for a key and said bar having laterally extending sockets adapted to receive said key as described. 45 50

In testimony whereof we affix our signatures. 55

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