No. 864,066. PATENTED AUG. 20, 1907.

J. W. R. BERWICK.

MUSIC CASE.

APPLICATION FILED NOV. 14, 1905.

3 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1,

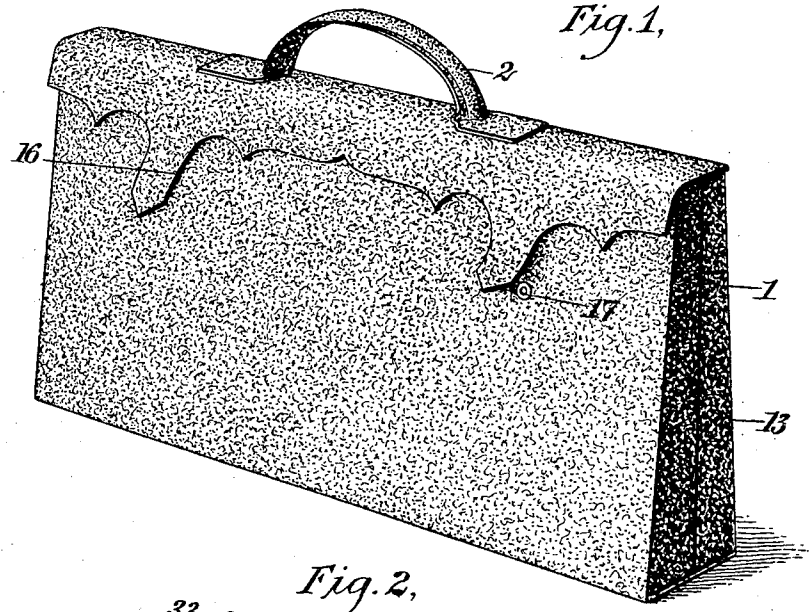
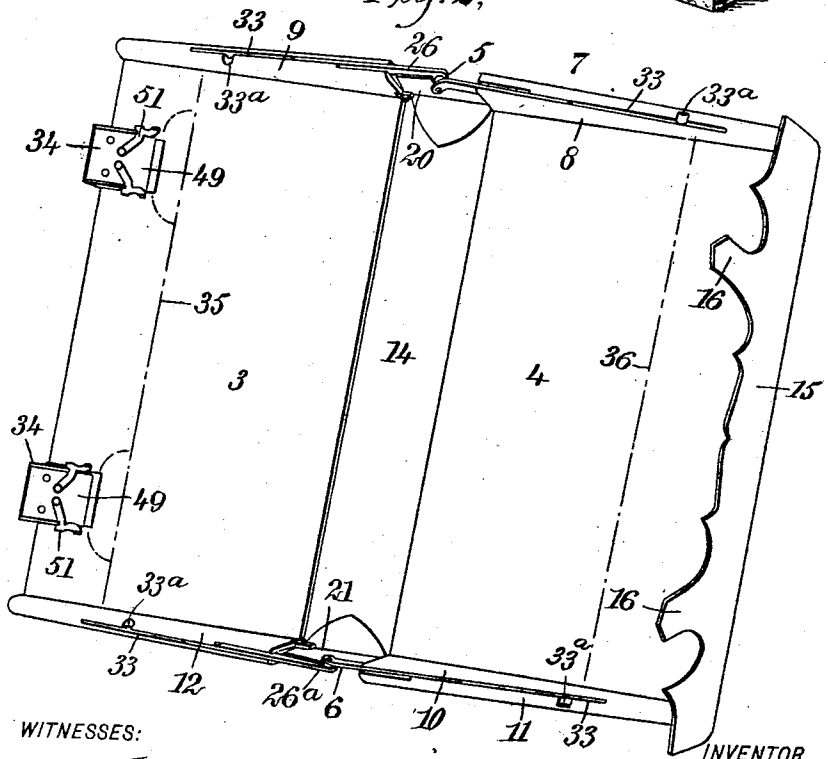


Fig. 2,



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3 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 3,

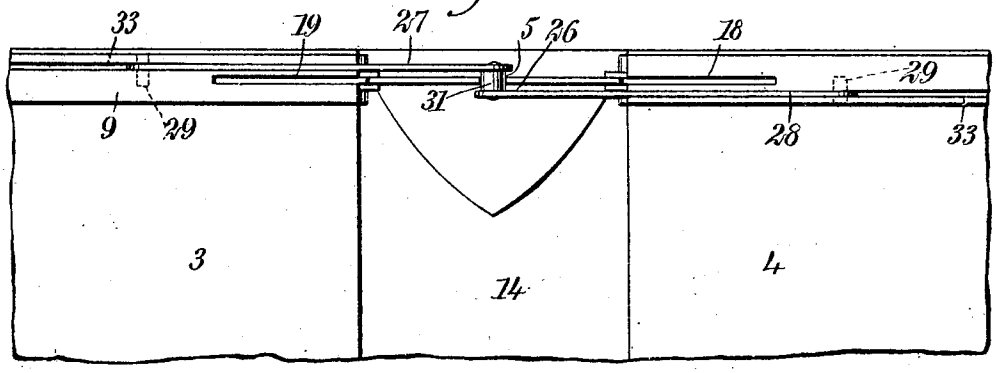


Fig. 4,

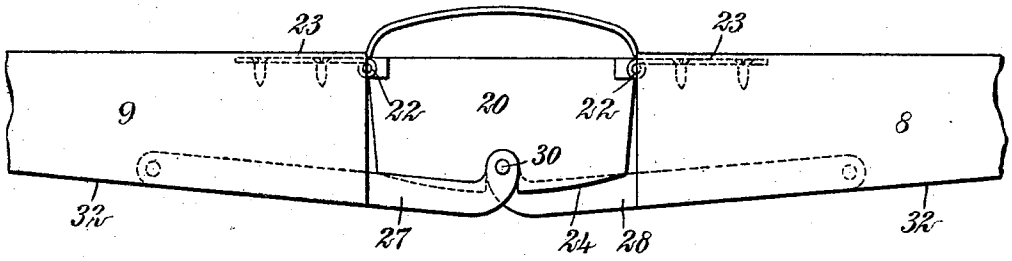
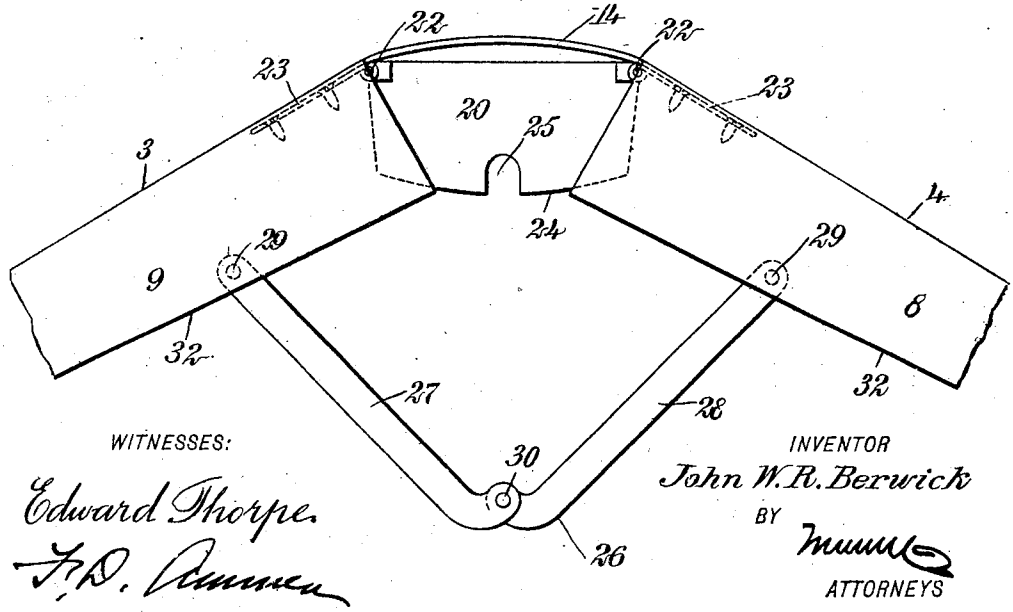


Fig. 5,



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MUSIC CASE.

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3 SHEETS—SHEET 3.

Fig. 6,

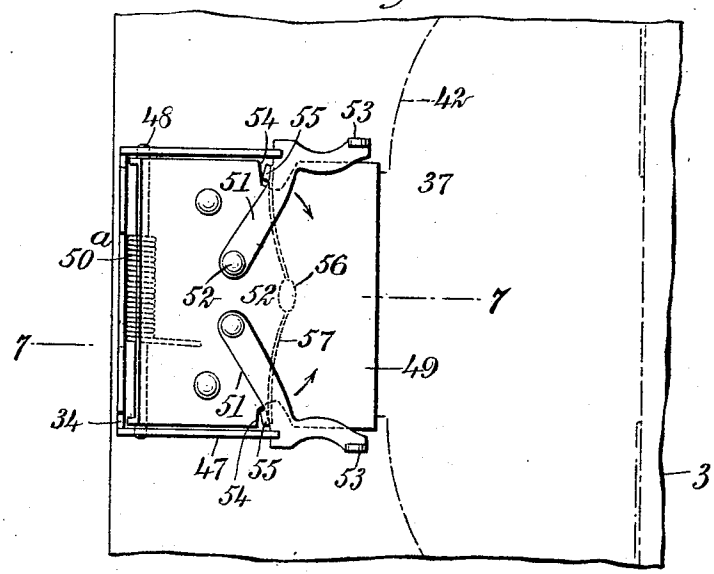


Fig. 7,

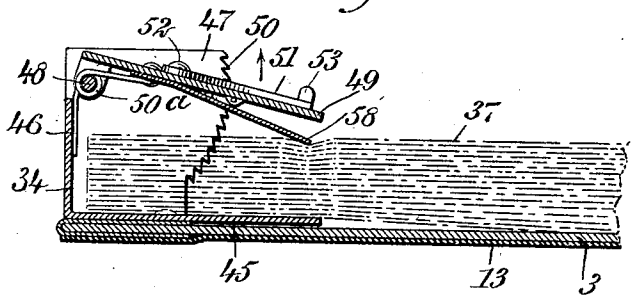
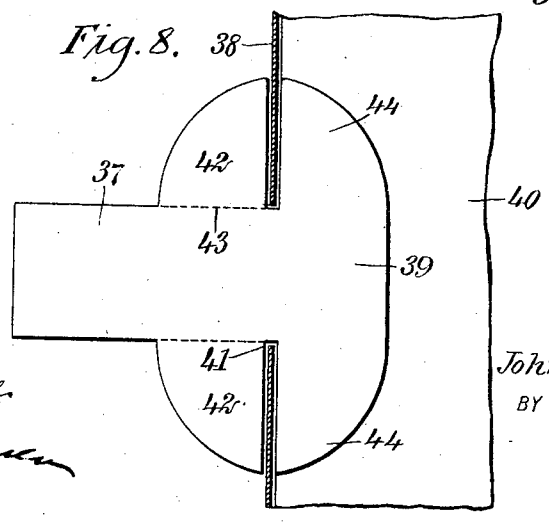


Fig. 8.



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MUSIC-CASE.

No. 864,066. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Aug. 20, 1907.

Application filed November 14, 1905. Serial No. 287,259.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN W. R. BERWICK, a subject of the King of Great Britain, and a resident of the city of New York, borough of Manhattan, in the county and State of New York, have invented a new and Improved Music-Case, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

This invention relates to music cases or music holders; the object of the invention is to produce a device of this class which is especially adapted for carrying sheet music in a convenient way, and which is so constructed as to enable it to be opened out to place the music in an upright position on a music rack.

The invention consists in the construction and combination of parts to be more fully described hereinafter and definitely set forth in the claims.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures.

Figure 1 is a perspective of the music case or music holder showing the same in a closed position, adapting the case to be held in the hand; Fig. 2 is a perspective of the music case showing the same in an open position, the parts of the case being here shown in the relation which they assume when the music holder is to be supported on a rack to enable the music to be read; Fig. 3 is an elevation or face view of the upper edge of the music case showing the same in its open position and illustrating especially the construction of the joint which constitutes a feature of the invention; Fig. 4 is a plan or edge view of the upper end of the music case illustrated in Fig. 3, and showing the parts in the same relation; Fig. 5 is a plan or edge view similar to Fig. 4 but representing the music case in a partly folded condition so as to indicate the manner in which the joint is broken; Fig. 6 is an elevation or front view of a portion of the music case and illustrating especially, the means for securing sheet music to the music case; Fig. 7 is a cross section taken on the line 7—7 of Fig. 6; and Fig. 8 is a section taken longitudinally of a music folio, illustrating the manner of attaching devices to the same which facilitate the attachment of the music in the music case.

Referring more particularly to the parts, 1 represents the body of the music case which when closed as indicated in Fig. 1 presents substantially the appearance of a small hand satchel, the said body being provided with a suitable handle.

The body 1 is composed of two sides or leaves 3 and 4 covered with suitable material or fabric and connected together with joints 5 and 6 arranged at the ends of the case as shown most clearly in Fig. 2. At the upper edge of the case as viewed in Fig. 2 is provided an upper rail 7 which is formed in sections 8 and 9. At the lower extremity of the case as viewed in Fig. 2 is provided a similar lower rail 10 the same being formed of sections 11 and 12. These rails are preferably formed of wood and have their greatest width adjacent to the joints 5 and 6. The entire device is provided with a suitable cover 13, portions of which cover the aforesaid leaves 3 and 4. The portion 14 connecting the said leaves constitutes the back. This cover at one side is formed with an extending flap 15 which is adapted to over-lap the edge of the opposite leaf in a manner which is common in hand satchels, and this flap is provided with projecting tongues 16 which have buttons which coöperate with sockets, one of which is shown at 17.

The rails 8, 9, 11 and 12 are preferably of greatest width near the joints 5 and 6 and taper toward their outer extremities. In the upper edges of these rails as viewed in Fig. 2, elongated slots 18 and 19 are formed as indicated most clearly in Fig. 3. At the adjacent edges of the leaves 3 and 4, plates 20 and 21 are attached, same being secured by pivot pins 22 to the hinge plates 23 which attach to the rail section as indicated most clearly in Fig. 4. These connecting plates 20 and 21 are attached opposite the slots 18 and 19 and are adapted to fold into the same when the case is in its folded condition shown in Fig. 1. It should be understood that these slots 18 and 19 are of great depth and extend from the upper edges of the rails to points near the rear edges thereof. The plates 20 and 21 are substantially rectangular in form, preferably; however, each plate tapers toward its outer edge 24 and these outer edges are preferably curved convexly at substantially the central point in the edge 24; each of the plates 20 and 21 is provided with a notch or recess 25, the purpose of which will appear more clearly hereinafter.

By reason of the construction just described a joint is formed between the leaves 3 and 4 which enables the device to be opened or closed as will be readily understood.

In order to enable the leaves to be locked in an open or extended position, as shown in Fig. 4, locking bars 26 and 26ª are provided in connection with the joints 5 and 6. These locking bars are formed in sections or links 27 and 28, which are pivoted at 29 to the rails and are pivoted together by means of a pin 30, as indicated most clearly in Fig. 3. The adjacent extremities of the links 27 and 28 are maintained apart by means of a thimble or distance piece 31. At each joint the links 27 and 28 are disposed on opposite sides of the corresponding connecting plate 20 and 21, so that when the music case is opened out the joint connection at 30 between the links may be forced down into the notch 25 of the plate. The extended and locked relation referred to is fully illustrated in Figs. 3 and 4. When it is desired to close the case the links 27 and 28 will be pulled upwardly and away from the plates 20 and 21;

in this way the joint is broken and the leaves 3 and 4 may be folded together.

In order to enable the adjacent edges 32 of the rail section to come together closely, the inner edges of the rails are provided with longitudinal slots 33 which receive the aforesaid links 27 and 28 as will be readily understood, and these recesses preferably extend to the inner extremities of the rails so as to enable the links to seat themselves in the manner shown in Fig. 4, when the device is in an open position. Near the outer extremities of the slots 33 I provide enlargements or recesses 33ª which are formed on opposite sides of the slots of the rails and when these slots come together they form a space for the joints of the links and the distance pieces 31.

Referring especially to Fig. 4 it will be seen that when the links 27 and 28 are pushed inwardly the pin 30 will have moved beyond the straight line joining the points 29 so that locking of the joints occurs. Evidently with this arrangement, if it were attempted to fold the leaves together without displacing the links, a binding action would take place at plates 20 and 21 so that the links 27 and 28 would operate to prevent any movement of the parts.

I provide holding devices 34 which are preferably disposed at the edge of the leaf 3, the purpose of which is to secure sheets of music to the case. The position of the edges of these sheets or music folios is indicated by the dotted lines 35, 36 in Fig. 2. In order to adapt the music for being held by these devices 34, I prefer to attach paper tongues 37 to the music folios 38, as indicated most clearly in Fig. 8. These tongues are substantially rectangular extensions formed upon a body 39, and these bodies are adapted to be pasted or attached in any other suitable manner to the central sheet 40 or pages of the music folio. The cover of the folio, which is usually a folded sheet, is formed with an opening 41 through the folded edge or back thereof and through this opening the tongue 37 is passed. In order to attach the tongue 37 for holding the inner sheet 40 within the folio, I provide the same with laterally projecting wings 42, adapted to be folded on the side edge lines 43 of the tongues. When the tongue is to be thrust through the opening, these wings will be folded upon the tongue, after which they are opened out as indicated in Fig. 8 so as to prevent the tongue from being withdrawn. I prefer to form the bodies 39 of the tongue substantially in the form shown so that they present lateral extensions 44; these extensions reinforcing the rear edge of the sheet to which they are attached and preventing the music from being torn asunder.

It should be understood that the tongues 37 are adapted to be held in the devices 34; the construction of one of these devices will now be described. It is preferably formed of sheet metal bent so as to produce a base plate 45 attached to the inner surface of the leaf 3; this base plate presents a back or plate 46 which projects upwardly from the leaf as indicated in Fig. 7. The edges of the base plate 45 are turned upwardly so as to project at right-angles to the leaf 3 and so as to constitute wings 47, connected by a transverse bolt or pin 48 upon which there is pivotally mounted a clamping plate 49. A spring 50ª, disposed around the pin 48, thrusts against the under side of this clamping plate and tends to raise the same as will be readily understood. The inner edges of the wings 47 are circumferential in form and disposed about the axis of the pin 48 as a center, and they are provided with downwardly projecting teeth 50. On the upper face of the clamping plate 49 a pair of levers 51 are pivotally attached at 52 and the extremities of these levers project beyond the side edges of the clamping plate as indicated most clearly in Fig. 6. The outer edges of these levers are adapted to engage the teeth 50 so as to enable the levers to hold the clamping plate in a depressed position. The outer extremities of the levers are preferably turned upward as at 53, so as to facilitate the operation of the levers by the thumb and forefinger. The side edges of the clamping plate 49 are preferably formed with notches 54 and the levers 51 are provided with downwardly projecting nibs 55 which are disposed in these notches. By this arrangement it should be understood that the notches 54 limit the movement of the levers, giving them however, sufficient movement to enable them to release themselves from the teeth 50. On the under side of the locking plate 49 a button or boss 56 is provided at which leaf springs 57 are attached, said springs extending in opposite directions and engaging respectively with the forward faces of the nibs 55. From this arrangement it should be understood that the springs 57 normally operate to maintain the levers in engagement with the notches, but by pressing the levers toward each other they may be released. Upon the under face of the clamping plate 49 is provided a resilient plate 58 which is rigidly attached as shown, and the body of which is disposed in an inclined position with respect to the plate 49. In this way the forward edge of the resilient spring plate 58 is disposed below the forward edge of the plate 49.

It should be understood that a number of music folios may be placed in the music case and the tongues 37 thereof indicated by the dotted lines in Fig. 7, arranged so that they are received in the aforesaid holding device 34 and under the clamping plates 49. Evidently by forcing the clamping plates 49 down against the tongues 37 the spring plates 58 will operate to hold the device securely. With the music folios held in this manner the music case may be evidently readily opened and closed, as suggested above. Furthermore, any sheet of music may be readily removed and replaced by an other. The spring plates 58 referred to above enable the holding devices 34 to adapt themselves to circumstances, so that a greater or less number of music folios may be held with equal facility and equal security.

The spring-plates 58 are especially useful, however, because they insure a good pressure to hold the music thus; if they were absent it might be that at a certain tooth the levers 51 would hold the music too loosely and yet it would be impossible to force them to the next tooth to hold the same more tightly. In this way the spring-plates provide a desirable resiliency.

When the device is opened out as indicated in Fig. 2 it may be set up on a music rack so as to enable the music to be readily seen and turned over by the musician. When it is desired to fold the case up it is only necessary to pull up the joints between the links 27 and 28, enabling the leaves 3 and 4 to be folded together. The music folios will then be doubled or folded at the back 14 of the case and in no way interfere with closing

the same. When the case is closed it presents a neat appearance such as that shown in Fig. 1 and is admirably adapted to be carried in one's hand, like a hand satchel or bag.

While the invention has been described in the form of a portable music case, many of its features are adapted for use in connection with music stands or cabinets. The folding case is also useful as a sample case for sheet music, records or the like. And it should be understood that the invention is not confined in use to music but could be used in the construction of other cases for different articles.

Special attention is called to the possibility of removing readily any piece of music held in the case without necessitating the removal of the others.

It will also be seen that the order of arrangement of the music may be quickly changed if desired.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent:—

1. A music case, comprising a pair of jointed leaves, adapted to fold together, in combination with means for locking said leaves in substantial alinement in an extended position.

2. In a music case in combination, a pair of leaves adapted to fold together, means for locking said leaves in alinement in an extended position, and holding devices for attaching music folios within said holder.

3. In a music case in combination, a pair of leaves, plates jointed to said leaves and connecting the same, locking bars coöperating with said leaves and in engagement with said plates to maintain said leaves in an extended position.

4. In a music case, in combination, a pair of leaves, a flexible back connecting said leaves, rail sections attached at the edges of said leaves and projecting outwardly therefrom, joints connecting said rail sections, and means for locking said leaves rigidly in alinement at said joints.

5. In a music case in combination, a pair of leaves, having rail extensions on the edges thereof, joint plates connecting said rail extensions, locking-bars attached to said rails, and means whereby said locking-bars may engage said plates, to lock said leaves in substantial alinement in an extended position.

6. In a music case in combination, a pair of leaves, having rails at the edges thereof, plates jointed to said rails connecting said leaves and having notches in the edges thereof, and links jointed to said rolls and having joints adapted to be depressed into said notches.

7. In a music case in combination, a pair of leaves having rails attached to the edges thereof, plates jointed to said rails having notches in the upper edges thereof, links pivoted near the upper edges of said rails and disposed on opposite sides of said plates, and distance pieces separating the connected extremities of said links and adapted to be received in said notches.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

JOHN W. R. BERWICK.

Witnesses:
JNO. M. RITTER,
F. D. AMMEN.