June 3, 1930. B. VITTO 1,761,245

MULTIPLE XYLOPHONE FINGER

Filed Sept. 12, 1929

Fig. 1.

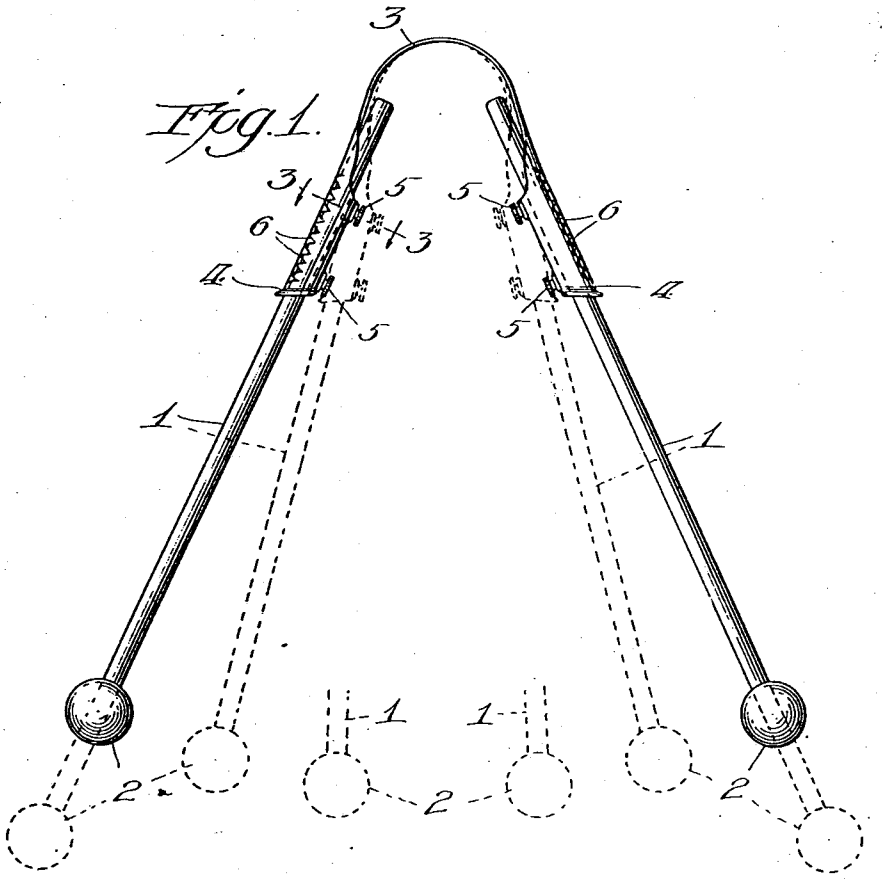


Fig. 2.

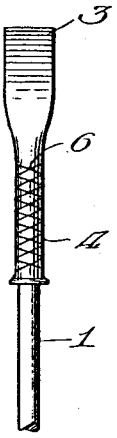
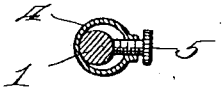


Fig. 3



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Patented June 3, 1930

1,761,245

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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MULTIPLE XYLOPHONE FINGER

Application filed September 12, 1929. Serial No. 392,000.

It is usual for xylophone players to hold the sticks of a pair of xylophone fingers in one hand, manipulating them so as to spread the balls or heads or bring them closer together in order to span various numbers of keys. While it is easy to hold the fingers so that the balls are spread a short distance apart, it is very difficult successfully to produce a wide spread.

The object of the present invention is to make it possible for a player, holding two xylophone fingers in one hand, to produce a spread of any required distance in a very simple and convenient manner.

In carrying out my invention, I connect the butt ends of the sticks or stems of a pair of fingers by suitable resilient means that tends constantly to spread the heads far apart, whereby the distance between the heads is controlled by the player through variation of the pressure that he applies in gripping the device. The resilient connecting means may be in the form of a holder into which ordinary xylophone fingers may be inserted. Therefore, viewed in one of its aspects, my invention may be said to have for its object to produce a simple and novel holder for a pair of xylophone fingers that will make it possible for a player easily to manipulate a pair of such fingers in playing chords.

The various features of novelty whereby my invention is characterized will hereinafter be pointed out with particularity in the claims; but, for a full understanding of my invention and of its objects and advantages, reference may be had to the following detailed description taken in connection with the accompanying drawing, wherein:

Figure 1 is an elevation of a device constructed in accordance with a preferred embodiment of my invention, the balls or heads being shown in dotted lines in several of the various positions into which they may be brought; Fig. 2 is a side or edge view of a part of the device; and Fig. 3 is a section on line 3—3 of Fig. 1, on a somewhat larger scale.

In the particular embodiment of my invention illustrated, there are two xylophone fingers of any usual or preferred form, each embodying a stick or stem 1 and a ball or head 2; these fingers being adapted to be detachably and adjustably mounted in a suitable holder. In the arrangement shown, the holder comprises a more or less U-shaped piece of spring metal 3 whose arms, or at least the outer ends of whose arms, are in the form of tubes 4 whose long axes extend lengthwise of the arms. These tubular parts are large enough to receive the sticks or stems of the xylophone fingers, and are provided with means for clamping the sticks or stems in place. The clamping means for the sticks or stems may conveniently be set screws 5, of which there are preferably a plurality spaced from each other lengthwise of the tubular members.

Normally the holder maintains the fingers in spread relation to each other, so that the balls or heads are at least as far apart as may be required in playing. By making the arms of the holder rather long, the sticks or stems may be adjusted in the direction of their lengths; thereby permitting the heads of short fingers initially to be spaced at the proper distance apart; or making possible a greater spacing between the heads of longer fingers.

In using the device the player simply grasps the holder, exerting a light pressure to press the arms of the holder toward each other; such pressure being alternately applied and released in whole or in part, so as to bring the balls or heads toward each other and permit them to spread as the distance between the particular pair of keys to be struck by the fingers varies during the playing of a composition.

The outer sides or faces of the arms of the holder may be roughened, as indicated at 6, so that the device will not slip in the hand of the player.

While I have illustrated and described with particularity only a single preferred form of my invention, I do not desire to be limited to the exact structural details thus illustrated and described; but intend to cover all forms and arrangements which come within the definitions of my invention constituting the appended claims.

I claim:—

1. A device of the character described comprising two xylophone fingers, a bowed spring member, and means for fastening the butt end of each of said fingers to one end of said spring member.

2. In a device of the character described, a member comprising a pair of holders for the butt ends of xylophone fingers, and spring means connecting said holders together and tending to position the holders in diverging relation with each other.

3. In a device of the character described, a member comprising a pair of elongated holders for the butt ends of a pair of xylophone fingers, spring means connecting the holders and tending constantly to hold them in diverging relation to each other, and means for adjusting each finger lengthwise on its holder.

4. In a device of the character described, two tubular elements each adapted to receive the butt end of a xylophone finger, and spring means connecting corresponding ends of said elements together and tending constantly to hold them in diverging relation to each other.

5. In a device of the character described, two tubular elements each adapted to receive the butt end of a xylophone finger, spring means connecting corresponding ends of said elements together and tending constantly to hold them in diverging relation to each other, and thumb screws extending through a wall of each tubular element to engage with the stick of a finger engaged therein.

6. A device of the character described comprising two xylophone fingers, and a hinge connecting the butt ends of the fingers together.

7. A device of the character described comprising two xylophone fingers, and resilient means connecting the butt ends of the fingers together and tending constantly to spread the head ends of the fingers apart.

In testimony whereof, I sign this specification.

BEN VITTO.