

A. F. H. BRAUN.
DAMPER FOR VIOLINS.

No. 48,648.

Patented July 11, 1865.

Fig. 1.



Fig. 4.

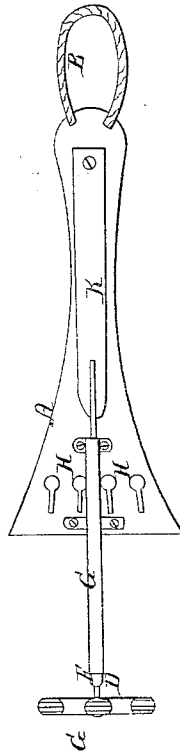


Fig. 5.

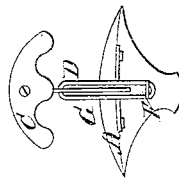


Fig. 2.

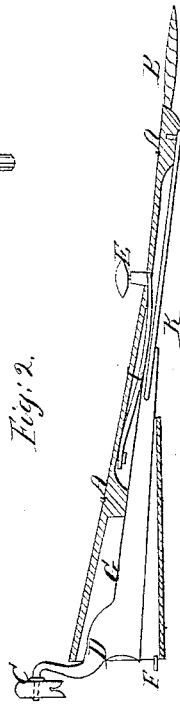
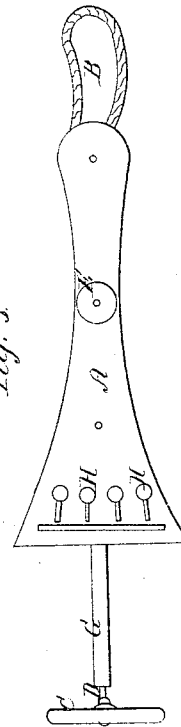


Fig. 3.



Witnesses:
A. J. Dewey

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

AUGS. F. H. BRAUN, OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA.

DAMPER FOR VIOLINS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 48,648, dated July 11, 1865.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, AUGUSTUS F. H. BRAUN, of the city and county of San Francisco, State of California, have invented a new and Improved Damper for Violins; and I do hereby declare that the within is a full and exact description of the construction and operation of the same, reference being had to the drawings which accompany this specification, in which—

Figure 1 represents a side elevation. Fig. 2 is a section. Fig. 3 is a top view. Fig. 4 is a bottom view. Fig. 5 is an end view.

The nature of my invention consists in providing an instrument which is to be attached to the tail-board of a violin, which is to impart softness or modulation to its sound, and is operated with the chin of the performer by means of a lever attached to a spring.

To enable others skilled in the art to make and use my invention, I will proceed to describe its construction and operation.

I use the common tail-board of the violin. At the lower end I attach a spring by means of a small screw. This spring is made of iron or steel, and extends entirely underneath the tail-board and passes through a brass case. This case is confined to the tail-board by means of screws, and is about two inches long, slightly increasing in width, and having a projection at its base upon which to place the bridge. Through this case the spring passes up in the form of a neck. Upon this neck is fastened the capodastro by means of a screw.

The sordine I make of any hard wood, (the hardest wood is preferable.) For the purpose of operating the capodastro, which is attached to this spring, I place another spring or lever parallel and upon the main spring above described, to act as a lever for the purpose of pressing down the sordine upon the bridge of the viol. This spring or lever is to be constructed of iron or steel, and extends about

one-third of the whole distance of the main spring, one end of which is fastened to the tail-board by means of a screw. The other end protrudes up through the tail-board, and has a button placed upon it, upon which the chin may rest.

The operation of the instrument is as follows: When a soft or subdued tone to the viol is desired the performer presses his chin upon the button which is attached to the lever which operates the spring upon which the sordine is placed, causing it to shut down upon the bridge.

In the drawings, Fig. 1, A represents the tail-board. B is the loop which connects it to the viol. C represents the sordine. D is the neck to the spring. F is a projection upon which the bridge is placed. G is the brass case through which the spring passes. H H are holes for the strings of the viol. E is the button attached to the lever I.

Fig. 2, as shown in section, A A represents the tail-board. B is a loop. C is the sordine. D is the neck of the spring. E is the button. F is a projection for the bridge to rest upon. G is the brass case through which the spring passes. I is the lever which operates the spring K.

Like letters upon Figs. 3, 4, and 5 represent the parts as above described.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The combination and arrangement of the spring D K with the sordine C, as operated by the spring or lever I and button E, substantially as described; and for the purpose set forth.

AUGUSTUS F. H. BRAUN.

Witnesses:

C. W. M. SMITH,
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