

J. F. Stratton,

Mute for Wind Musical Instrument

N^o 5,363.

Patented Dec. 5, 1865.

Fig. 1

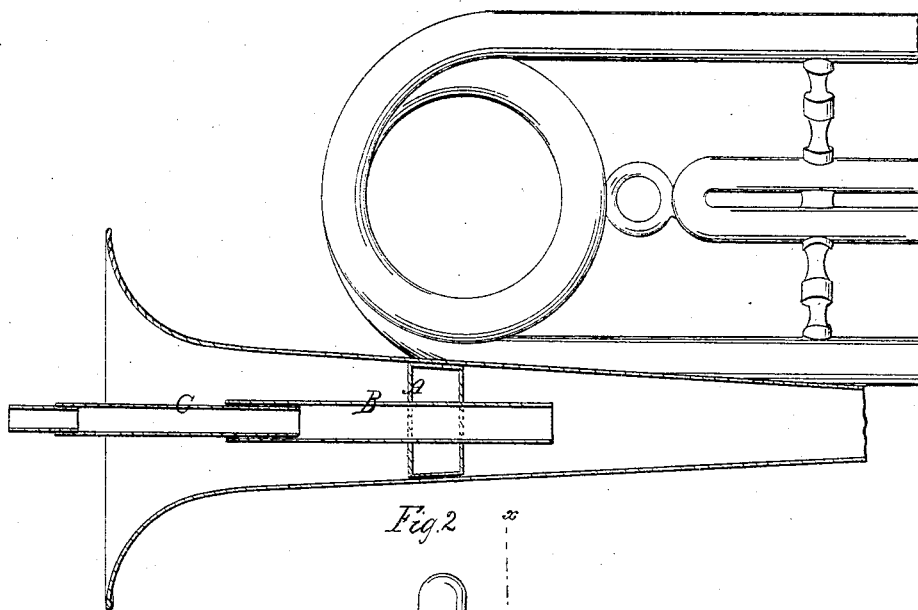
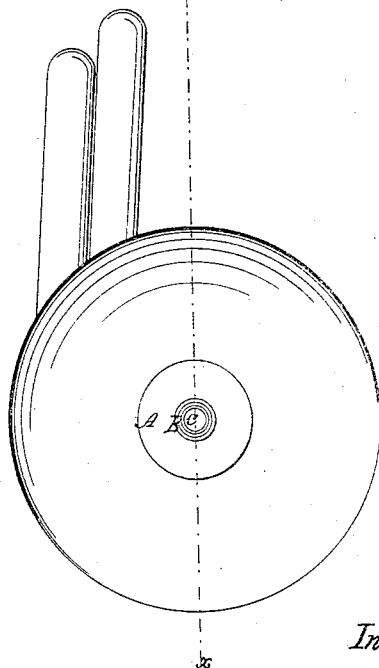


Fig. 2



Witnesses:

*Ober Gusch
H. W. Wren*

Inventor:

John F. Stratton

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN F. STRATTON, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

MUTE FOR MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **51,363**, dated December 5, 1865.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN F. STRATTON, of No. 31 Maiden Lane, in the city, county, and State of New York, have invented a new and Improved Mute for Musical Instruments; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable others skilled in the art to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, in which—

Fig. 1 represents a longitudinal central section of the bell of a cornet with my mute applied to it, the line *xx*, Fig. 2, indicating the plane of section. Fig. 2 is an end view of the same.

Similar letters of reference indicate like parts.

This invention consists in the employment or use, as a mute for musical instruments, of a plug made to fit the bell of the instrument, and provided with a central tube extending through both heads of said plug in such a manner that when the plug is applied to the bell of the instrument the sound is deadened without throwing the instrument out of tune, and pupils are enabled to practice on the instrument without annoying their neighbors. For the purpose of producing different degrees of sound—that is to say, in order to deaden the sound more or less—the tube passing through the plug is made to extend and contract. When the tube is extended the sound appears to recede, or to be farther off than it is when the tube is shortened, though this change has no effect on the tune unless the tube is shortened beyond a certain point, which has to be determined by experience.

In all musical instruments, such as are usually made of brass or German silver, and comprised under the general term of “brass

instruments,” it has heretofore been a great annoyance for the neighborhood, if a person commences to practice on such an instrument. The sounds produced by unpracticed persons are really distressing. It has, therefore, been a great desideratum to have what is termed a “mute”—that is to say, a device which will deaden the sound without altering the tune.

Such a device is the plug A, which is fitted with this central tube, B. The plug is round and slightly tapering, so that it fits nicely into the bell of the instrument, as shown, and the tube B extends through both heads and a certain distance beyond the same. How far this tube has to extend from either head of the plug must be determined by experience; because if said tube is cut too short the mute throws the instrument out of tune and becomes useless.

By increasing the length of the tube B toward the open end of the bell the sound is made to recede; and in order to produce different effects I have constructed the tube with an extension-piece, C, so that it can be lengthened or shortened at any moment.

By the use of this mute, pupils are enabled to practice without annoying the neighborhood.

I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

1. A mute for musical instruments, composed of a conical plug with a central pipe extending through both heads of the plug and a certain distance beyond the same, substantially as and for the purpose described.

2. Fitting the central tube of the mute with an extension-piece, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

JOHN F. STRATTON.

Witnesses:

M. M. LIVINGSTON,
C. L. TOPLIFF.