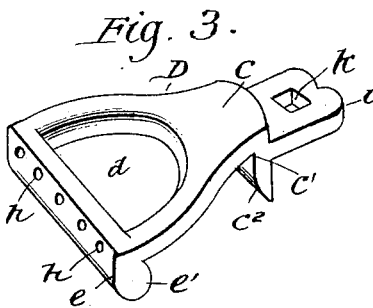
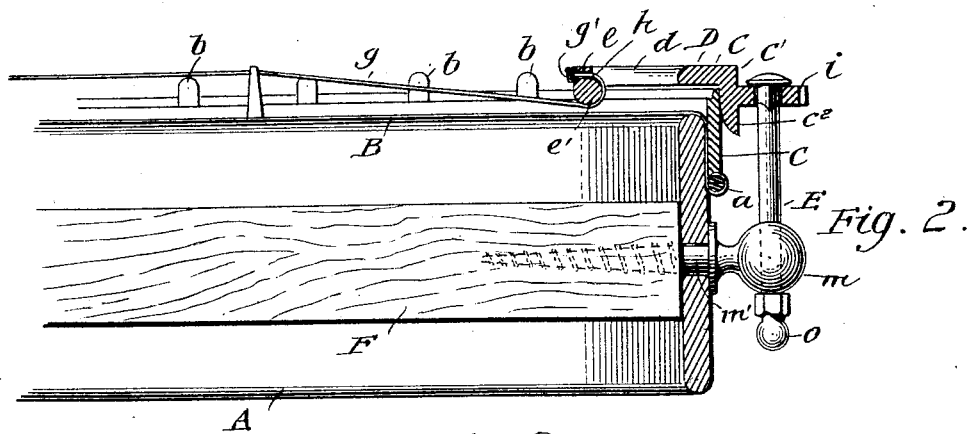
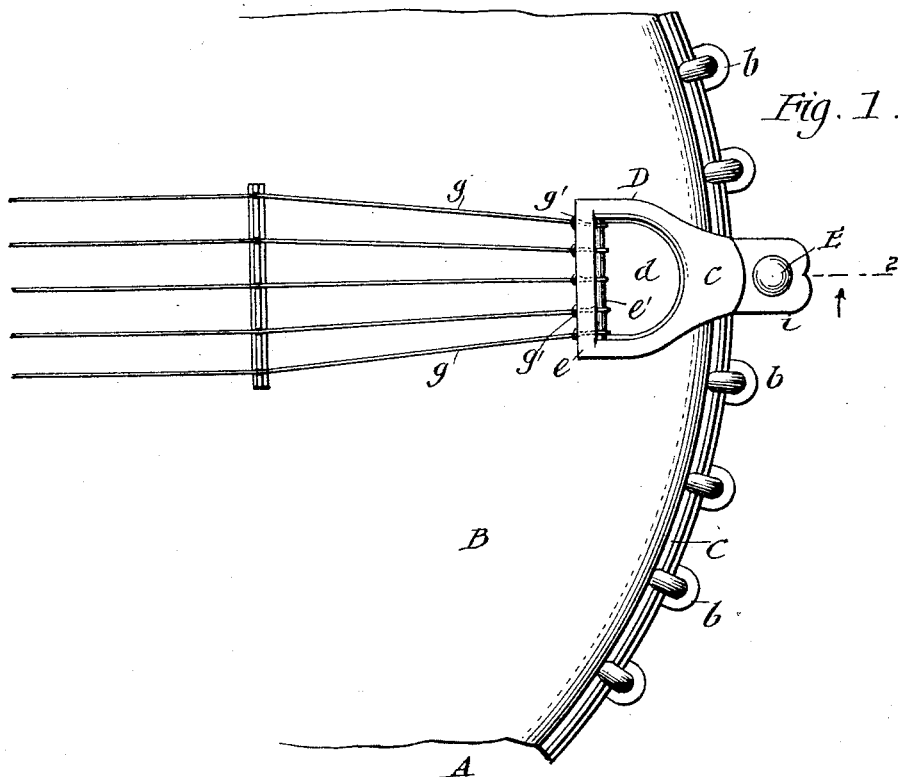


(No Model.)

H. FENTON.
BANJO TAIL PIECE.

No. 454,728.

Patented June 23, 1891.



WITNESSES:

H. Clark,
C. Sedgwick

INVENTOR:

H. Fenton

BY

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ATTORNEYS

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HERSCHEL FENTON, OF NEW YORK, N. Y., ASSIGNOR TO JOHN H. BUCKBEE,
OF SAME PLACE.

BANJO TAIL-PIECE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 454,728, dated June 23, 1891.

Application filed February 3, 1891. Serial No. 380,021. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HERSCHEL FENTON, of New York city, in the county and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Banjo Tail-Piece, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

The object of this invention is to provide a tail-piece for a banjo which will afford means to strain the strings in conjunction with the keys, holding the strings off of the head-skin, and also furnishing means to connect the strings to the cross-bar of the tail-piece in a manner that will avoid chafing of the strings and thus increase their durability.

To these ends my invention consists in the construction and combination of parts, as is hereinafter described and claimed.

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

Figure 1 is a plan view of a banjo-head broken, with the improvement in place, engaging strings shown broken. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal section of the banjo-head broken and the improvement in place on said head, taken on the line 2 in Fig. 1; and Fig. 3 is a detached perspective view of the improved tail-piece.

It is of importance for the purity of tone in a banjo that a contact of the tail-piece and strings of the instrument with the head-skin be avoided, which, if properly effected, increases the resonant power of the banjo. The device which is the subject of this invention accomplishes the desideratum mentioned in an efficient manner, as will be explained.

The banjo-head is constructed in any well-approved manner, consisting, essentially, of an annular body A and head-skin B, that is stretched upon the body by a hoop C, which is seated upon a border-ring a. The latter-named piece is secured on the margin of the head-skin by wrapping and cementing the skin thereon, the hoop being held in place and clamped upon the border-ring a by the usual clamps b.

The tail-piece D is made of metal, preferably cast into form and given any suitable finish. Its form is clearly shown in Fig. 3, and, as indicated, consists of a flat plate c,

that has its edges "ogee" curved, said plate being suitably widened forwardly and apertured in semicircular form, the straight front edge of this aperture d forming the inner edge of the cross-bar e of the tail-piece. The cross-bar e, whereon the strings g are secured, has a series of properly-spaced perforations h formed in it, which holes are of a size that will allow the strings to be readily inserted, and are cupped on their front edges. As shown in Fig. 2, the cross-bar e is of greater thickness than the plate c it is formed upon, and is mainly cylindrical in cross-section, the perforations h having such a relative position that their lower surfaces will merge into or be tangential to the curved periphery of the cross-bar's depending cylindrical portion e', and thus avoid any angular corners that would cut the strings which lie upon the rear and lower surface of the cross-bar, having their knotted ends g' engaged with the cupped front edges of the perforations h. The plate c is bent at a right angle to produce a depending limb at c', which limb has its lower corner that is adjacent to the hoop C rounded, so as to permit a rocking movement of the tail-piece D upon the upper edge of the hoop, the rounded corner c' rolling upon the outer face of the hoop when the tail-piece is rocked.

By the provision of the depending limb c' and the curvature of its lower inner corner c' a proper degree of vibration is afforded when the lug i is drawn upon, the surface of contact between the limb and the hoop C serving to steady the tail-piece and prevent lateral swerving of the same, as its inner surface is of a shape that will adapt it to have a bearing its full width on the hoop.

On the exterior surface of the depending limb of the tail-piece a lug i is formed, which projects in a plane parallel with the plate c having a proper length to admit the formation of a vertical hole in it, said hole k (see Fig. 3) being preferably made square in contour to receive the square portion of a bolt E, that engages the lug and then passes through a knob m on the screw-bolt m', which is inserted through the body of the banjo-head and engages an extension-piece F of the neck of the instrument. (Shown broken.)

Upon the lower end of the bolt E a cap-nut o
is placed, which by its adjustment will rock
the tail-piece D a proper degree to elevate
the inner end of the tail-piece and prevent
5 the strings from resting upon the head-skin
B, the adjustment of the tail-piece being
altered, if necessary, when the hoop C is
clamped and given a lower position on the
body A to stretch the head-skin when this is
10 needed.

Having thus described my invention, I claim
as new and desire to secure by Letters Pat-
ent—

1. A banjo tail-piece having a nearly cylin-
15 drical forward cross-bar provided with trans-
verse cupped perforations that conform with

the cylindrical lower portion of the cross-bar,
substantially as set forth.

2. The combination, with the clamping-
hoop of a banjo-head, of a tail-piece that is 20
adapted to rock upon the upper edge of said
hoop, having a depending rear limb curved
on its inner lower corner that may rock on
the side of the hoop, and furnished with a
lug projected from the limb between the 25
curved edge thereof and its upper terminal,
which lug is apertured to receive an adjust-
ing-bolt, substantially as described.

HERSCHEL FENTON.

Witnesses:

ISRAEL FARJEON,
JACQUE FARJEON.