

(Serial Number,)

1895.

(Ex'r's Book,)

Div

539040

15
79

Patent No.

552,116

Claude H. Gaskins

Of

Shamokin

County of

State of

Pennsylvania

Invention

Stringed Musical Instruments

Parts of application filed

Petition

Feb 20 - 1895

Affidavit

4 4 11

Specification

4 4 11

Drawing

4 4 11

Model

not Required

Specimen

First Fee Cash

15 Feb 20 - 95

" " Cert.

App. filed Complete

Feb 20 - 95

Examined

June 4. 95 H. Blandy, Jr.

Counter signed:

W. M. Blandy, Jr. Commissioner

Notice of Allowance

June 7, 1895

Final Fee Cash

Dec 7, 1895

" " Cert.

December 31, 1895

Patented

December 31, 1895

L. Bagger & Co
City -

1895. *mm*

CONTENTS:

- 1/2* Application *1* papers.
1. *March 14. 95. Rej.*
 2. *Amtdt A. Mar. 26. 1895.*
 3. *April. 2. 1895. Rej.*
 4. *Amtdt B. April 15. 1895.*
 5. *April. 26. 1895. Rej.*
 6. *April 30 " Amtdt.*
 7. *May 14. 1895. Letter*
 8. *June 1 - " Amtdt.*
 9.
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 23.

TITLE:

Improvement in *Stringed*
Musical Instruments.

LOUIS BAGGER & CO.,

Solicitors of American and Foreign Patents,

AND

ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELLORS AT LAW,

Office: Le Droit Building, opposite Main Entrance to U. S. Patent Office,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

APPLICATION FOR LETTERS PATENT.

I.—PETITION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY.

To the Honorable Commissioner of Patents:

Sir:

Your Petitioner, Claude H. Gaskins,
resident of Shamokin, Pennsylvania,
pray & that Letters Patent may be granted to him

for the improvement in Stringed Musical Instruments,
set forth in the annexed specification; vesting in him and his legal
representatives, the exclusive right of the same, upon the terms and conditions ex-
pressed in the act of Congress in that case made and provided.

And further pray & that you will recognize LOUIS BAGGER and AUGUST
PETERSON, constituting the firm of LOUIS BAGGER & CO., of Washing-
ton, D. C., as his Attorneys, with full power of substitution and revocation, to
prosecute this application, to make alterations and amendments therein, to receive the
Patent, and transact all business in the Patent Office connected therewith.

Claude H. Gaskins
[Inventor sign full name here.]

II.—SPECIFICATION.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known, that I, Claude H. Gaskins, a
citizen of the United States and resident of
Shamokin, in the County of Northumberland
and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful
improvements in Stringed Musical Instruments,
and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear and exact descrip-
tion thereof, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make
and use the same; reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form
a part of this specification, and in which

of the invention

¶ My invention relates to improvements in stringed musical instruments, which in some degree combine the characteristics of a mandolin and a harp, and which I term a mandolin-harp.

¶ The object of the invention is to provide a musical instrument of the above character in which the volume of sound will be increased, greater strength be imparted to the structure and the tone and quality of the instrument be improved.

¶ The invention consists in the novel construction and combination of parts hereinafter fully described and claimed.

¶ In the accompanying drawing:

Figure 1 is a top or plan view of a mandolin-harp constructed in accordance with my invention.

Figure 2 is a similar view, the sounding board being removed, showing the rim, the neck and the head being made integral in one piece.

Figure 3 is a cross section on the line x-x, Figure 1, showing the perforated braces for strengthening the instrument.

¶ In the said drawing, the reference-numeral 1 designates the body and 2 a curved extension ^{or} ~~and~~ prolongation ~~of~~ on the left or upper side thereof, 3, the neck provided (2)

with the usual finger-board 4, frets 5, head 6, and keys 7.

¶ The numeral 8 designates the tail piece, 9, the bridge.

¶ In constructing the instrument, I proceed as follows:

I first saw, or otherwise produce out of a suitable piece or block of wood the ^{neck 3} ~~finger-board 4~~, head ^{4 5 6} ~~7~~, and the rim consisting of two sections 12 and 13, all of which are made integral ~~with each other~~.

The said rim sections extend from the left upper end of the head, rearwardly therefrom to form the extension 2^a and body 1, the said rim following the configuration shown in the drawing, forming the curved front ^{rear portion 15} ~~14~~ and side depressions 16 and 17, the latter of which forms a support for the instrument resting upon the knees of the player. The bottom 18, and sounding board have their edges curved to conform to the configuration of the rim, and are secured thereto, as usual. The sounding board at a point in front

of the bridge, and also in the extension or prolongation, is formed with sound openings, 19. The neck ^{being formed integral with the head & body} ~~is secured~~ to the curved front of the body in the usual manner, and the head being formed integral with the rim sections, the neck is braced and strengthened, there being no liability of its breaking at its point of junction with the body which is always the weakest point in instruments of this character or description.

¶ Located at suitable points in the body and extension are braces 20, consisting of thin strips of wood formed with perforations 21, so as not to obstruct the sound waves.

By forming the body with the extension or prolongation, as described, the volume of sound is increased, and the tone of the instrument improved in quality. The neck, head, and rim, being made in a single piece or integral, the instrument is greatly strengthened, whereby it is rendered more durable in use.

Having thus fully described my invention, what I claim is: *am*

B
Sub. A.
March 26/95
13 1. The stringed musical instrument, of the character described, the combination with the body, of the curved extension or prolongation thereof, having a sound opening therein, substantially as described.

Same
2. In a stringed musical instrument the combination with the body and the neck and head connected therewith, of the curved extension or prolongation having a sound opening therein and its front end connected with said head, substantially as described.

See
referred to
3. In a stringed musical instrument of the character described, the combination with the body, and the extension or prolongation thereof, of the neck, the head and the rim all made integral or in one piece, substantially as described.

See
also
in
4. In a musical instrument of the character described, the combination with the body, and the prolongation and extension thereof, of the perforated braces, substantially as described.

am

IN TESTIMONY that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereunto affixed my signature in presence of two witnesses.

Two Witnesses.

W. H. Harrison
August Peluso

Inventor's Full Name.

Claude H. Gaskins

III.—OATH.

District of Columbia,

STATE OF Pennsylvania

City of Washington.

COUNTY OF Northumberland

ss:

Claude H. Gaskins

the above named petitioner, citizen of the United States and resident of *Sharnokin* in the County of *Northumberland* and State of *Pennsylvania* being duly sworn (affirmed,) deposes and says that he verily believes himself to be the original, first and sole inventor of the improvement in *Stringed Musical Instruments*,

described and claimed in the foregoing Specification; that the same has not been patented to himself or to others, with his knowledge or consent, in any country.

that the same has not to his knowledge been in public use or on sale in the United States for more than two years prior to this application, and he does not know and do not believe that the same was ever before known or used prior to his invention thereof.

Inventor's full name.

Claude H. Gaskins

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this *11th* day of *January* A. D. 1895



[Signature of Notary.]

Edward S. Burkett

[Signature of Notary.]

Notary Public

[Official character.]



READ THE FOLLOWING DIRECTIONS.

In executing these documents, all names must be written out in full, in a PLAIN, LEGIBLE HAND; no abbreviations are permitted. Sign the names just over the places indicated in fine print. The OATH is administered, in the United States, by a Notary Public or Justice of the Peace, who must affix his official signature and seal, or, if he has none, a certificate of the Clerk of the County Court that he is duly qualified to administer oaths, must accompany the papers. If the inventor resides in, or is a citizen of, the Dominion of Canada, ONLY A NOTARY PUBLIC and NOT a Justice of the Peace, can administer the oath.

The papers, as soon as properly signed and executed, should be returned at once to

LOUIS BAGGER & CO.,

Solicitors of Patents,

Le Droit Building, Washington, D. C.

APPLICATION,

Filed Feb. 20 " 1895.

L. H. Haskins

In the U. S. Patent Office.

IN THE MATTER OF THE
APPLICATION OF

Claude H. Haskins,

of
Hannakin,

Connecticut,

For Letters Patent for

Improvements in Stringed
Musical Instruments.

Petition, Oath, Specification
and Power of Attorney.

FILED BY

LOUIS BAGGER & CO.,

Attorneys and Solicitors of Patents,

OFFICE, LE DROIT BUILDING.

Opposite Main Entrance to U. S. Patent Office,

WASHINGTON, D. C.



All communications should be addressed to
"The Commissioner of Patents,
Washington, D. C."

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,



A.E.W.

United States Patent Office
March 14, 1895.

Claude H. Siskins,

Stringed Musical Instru-
ments.

90 L. Bagger & Co.,

City.

Feb, 20, 1895. 539,040.

217.

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected on the patent to Birrer,
#518,775, April 24, 1894, (Music: Banjos & Guitars).

Claim 3 is rejected upon the same, and the patent to
Gregory, #500,231, June 27, 1893, (same class).

Claim 4 is rejected on the patent to Birrer, and on
that to Durand, #72,824, Dec. 31, 1867, (Music: Harps).

*Blundy
H. Ash*

Charles H. Lane,

Examiner.

Serial No. 537040 Paper No. 1

REJECTION.

Dated Mar. 14, 1895.

Garbino, J. H.

Fig. 1.

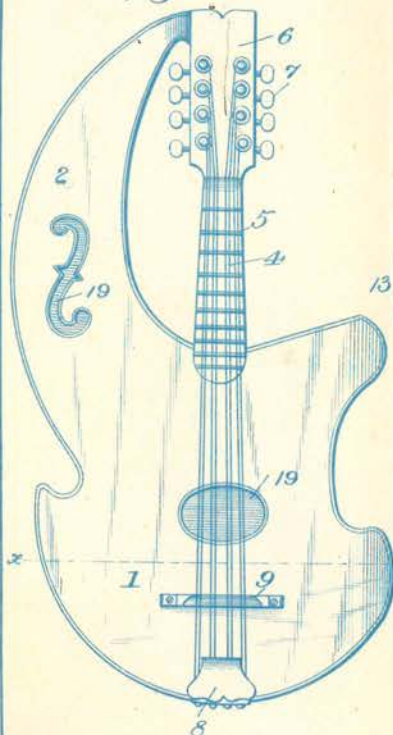


Fig. 2.

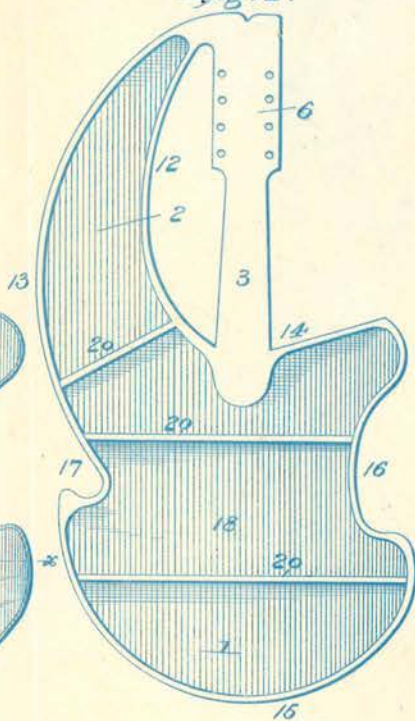
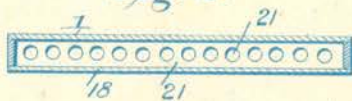


Fig. 3.



WITNESSES:
Frank L. Ourand
J. L. Leomby

INVENTOR:
Claude H. Gaskins
Wm. Dwyer & Co.
 Attorneys.

Blue Print

Filed *Mar. 20* 1895

C. H. Gaskin's

PHOTO.

MAR 20 1895

Ordered.

Cost.....

U. S. PATENT OFFICE,

MAR 20 1895

DIVISION V.

OFFICE OF LOUIS BAGGER & CO.,
SOLICITORS OF PATENTS AND COUNSELLORS AT LAW,
LE DROIT BUILDING, OPPOSITE U. S. PATENT OFFICE.

Room 217

Washington, D. C., Mar. 25 1895,

C. H. Garrison

Filed

Feb. 20 1895.

Imp't in *Stringed Musical Instru-* Ser. No. 539,040.
ments.

To the Honorable Commissioner of Patents:

Sir:—In the matter of the above-entitled application for Letters

Patent, we hereby respectfully amend the specification as follows:

Draw the claims and insert—

A.
Sub. B.
April 15/95.

1. In a stringed musical instrument, the combination with the body formed with a curved tapering extension, with a sound opening intermediate its ends, of the neck secured to said body and the tapered end of the extension, provided with frets and with apertures to receive the string pins, substantially as described.

2. In a stringed musical instrument, the combination with the neck, formed with frets and apertures, the body and the curved and tapering extension, terminating at the front or outer end of the neck and all made integral (with each other), the top provided with sound openings

~~and the bottom seemed to said units, and
the series of braces formed with perforations,
substantially as described."~~

Reconsideration
and allowance are solicited in view of
the above amendment.

Respectfully,
Wm. B. Bagg

and for
C. N. Jackson

Serial No. 539040 Paper No. 2

Amendment, 2

Filed Mar. 26 1895

L. St. Germain -

217.



U.S. PATENT OFFICE,

MAR 26 1895

DIVISION V.

429
217.
All communications should be addressed to
"The Commissioner of Patents,
Washington, D. C."

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,



A.E.W.

United States Patent Office,
April 2, 1895.

Claude H. Gaskins,

By L. Bagger & Co.,

City.

for "Stringed Musical Instruments", filed Feb. 20, 1895,
#539,040.

Case reconsidered as amended the 26th ultimo.

The claims are deemed to be devoid of patentable novelty in view of the state of the art as indicated by the references. The mere location of the sound hole to the best advantage is a matter too obvious to constitute more than the exercise of ordinary judgment. The neck piece with apertures for tuning pegs and frets is but that of the ordinary guitar.

The claims are rejected.

*Blundy
at Wash*

Henry Blundy
Examiner.

REJECTION.

Dated Apr. 2, 1895.

James L. H.

REJECTION.

Serial No.

Page No.

OFFICE OF LOUIS BAGGER & CO.,
SOLICITORS OF PATENTS AND COUNSELLORS AT LAW,
LE DROIT BUILDING, OPPOSITE U. S. PATENT OFFICE.

Room 217

Washington, D. C., April 12 1895,

Claude H. Gaskins

Filed

Feb. 20 1895.

Imp't in *Strung Musical Instruments* Ser. No. 539,040.

To the Honorable Commissioner of Patents:

Sir:—In the matter of the above-entitled application for Letters

Patent, we hereby respectfully amend the specification as follows:

Erase the claims and insert—

B.

Cancelled
April 30/95

~~" 1. In a strung musical instrument, the combination with the body formed with a curved tapering extension with a round opening intermediate its ends, of the neck united with said body and with the tapered end of said extension, provided with apertures intermediate the end of said extension and the body, to receive the string pins, substantially as described.~~

~~2. In a strung musical instrument, the combination with the curved body neck, the curved and tapering extension neck, and the neck, united with said body neck and with the contracted end of the said extension, and formed with apertures intermediate said contracted end) And the body neck, to receive the string keys, of the bottom secured to~~

said runs, the top secured to said runs provided
with round openings, and the series of braces
extending transversely across the instrument,
and formed with round openings, substantially
as described."

Respectful consideration
and allowance are requested in view of the
above amendment and of the personal inter-
view had with the Examiner.

Respectfully
Wm. Baggett Co
Agents

Claude M. Gaskins
"

Serial No. 539040 Paper No. 4

217

Amendment B.

Filed April 15 1895

L. S. Hasbanc

Clarion

520.231
72.824



U.S. PATENT OFFICE

APR 15 1895

DIVISION V

228
217.

All communications should be addressed to
"The Commissioner of Patents,
Washington, D. C."

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,



A.E.W.

United States Patent Office,

April 26, 1895.

Claude H. Gaskins,

% L. Bagger & Co.,

City.

#539,040, filed Feb. 20, 1895, for "Stringed Musical Instruments".

Case examined as amended the 15th instant.

Claim 1 is deemed to involve no patentable novelty
over the references of record, and must accordingly be rejected.

*Randy
Hast*

Charles Lane,

Examiner.

Serial No. 539040 Paper No. 5

REJECTION.

Dated April 26 1895

C. H. Justice,

OFFICE OF LOUIS BAGGER & CO.,
SOLICITORS OF PATENTS AND COUNSELLORS AT LAW,
LE DROIT BUILDING, OPPOSITE U. S. PATENT OFFICE.

Room 217

Washington, D. C., *April 27* 1895,

Claude H. Gaskins

Filed

Jul. 20 1895.

Imp't in *Stripped Musical Instruments* } Ser. No. 539,040

To the Honorable Commissioner of Patents:

Sir:—In the matter of the above-entitled application for Letters

Patent, we hereby respectfully amend the specification as follows:

Cancel claim 1.

*The objectionable
claim having been raised allowance is so-
licited.*

*Respectfully,
Louis Bagger & Co.
Attys for
Claude H. Gaskins*

Amendment

Filed April 30 1895

Lo. St. Gaekne

217

U. S. PATENT OFFICE,

APR 30 1895

DIVISION V.



479
217.

All communications should be addressed to
"The Commissioner of Patents,
Washington, D. C."

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

United States Patent Office,
May 14, 1895.

N.E.K.

Claude H. Gaskins,

c/o L. Bagger & Co.,

City.



#539,040; filed Feb. 20, 1895; for "Stringed Musical Instruments".

This case has been reconsidered as amended the 30th ultimo.

The claim may be allowed, but the specification needs correction in the following matters:

As indicated in Fig. 2, it is the neck 3, not the finger-board, which is made integral with the other parts, as stated in the second paragraph of page 3. In the third paragraph of page 3 it is stated that "the neck is secured to the curved front of the body in the usual manner", while on page 4 it is stated that the neck, head and rim are "made in a single piece or integral". Correction is accordingly necessary.

Blondy
1st

Charles L. Lavee,

Examiner.

Serial No. 539040 Paper No. 7

LETTER.

Dated May 14 1895

Haskins, C. H.

Robert. Davis

OFFICE OF LOUIS BAGGER & CO.,
SOLICITORS OF PATENTS AND COUNSELLORS AT LAW,
LE DROIT BUILDING, OPPOSITE U. S. PATENT OFFICE.

Room 217

Washington, D. C., May 31 1895,

C. H. Gaskins

Filed

Feb. 20 1895.

Imp't in Stringed Musical Instruments Ser. No. 539.040.

To the Honorable Commissioner of Patents:

Sir:—In the matter of the above-entitled application for Letters

Patent, we hereby respectfully amend the specification as follows:

✓ Line 5, page 3, erase ~~the~~ "finger board 4"
and insert "neck 3"

✓ Line 7, page 3, erase "with each other"

✓ Erase beginning with "is secured" line 18,
page 3, and ending with "neck" line 21,
same page, and insert — "being formed
integral with the head and body"

Reconsideration
and allowance are requested in view of the
above amendments.

Respectfully
Louis Bagger & Co.
Attest for
C. H. Gaskins

Serial No. 539040 Paper No. 8

Amendment.

Filed June 1st 1895

C. H. Gaskins

217

U. S. PATENT OFFICE,

JUN 1 1895

DIVISION V.

Issue Division.

All communications should be addressed to
"The Commissioner of Patents,
Washington, D. C."

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

Serial No.

539,040

U. S. Patent Office,

Washington, D. C. June 7, 1895

Claude H. Gaskins

L. Bagger & Co.
City

SIR:—Your APPLICATION for a patent for an IMPROVEMENT IN

Stringed Musical Instruments

Filed Feb 20, 1895, has been examined and ALLOWED.

The final fee, Twenty Dollars, must be paid, and the Letters Patent bear date as of a day not later than SIX MONTHS from the time of this present notice of allowance.

If the final fee is not paid within that period the patent will be withheld, and your only relief will be by a renewal of the application, with additional fees, under the provisions of Section 4897, Revised Statutes. The Office aims to deliver patents upon the day of their date, and on which their term begins to run; but to do this properly applicants will be expected to pay their final fees at least TWENTY DAYS prior to the conclusion of the six months allowed them by law. The printing, photolithographing, and engrossing of the several patent parts, preparatory to final signing and sealing, will consume the intervening time, and such work will not be done until after payment of the necessary fees.

When you send the final fee you will also send, DISTINCTLY AND PLAINLY WRITTEN, the name of the INVENTOR and TITLE OF INVENTION AS ABOVE GIVEN, DATE OF ALLOWANCE (which is the date of this circular), DATE OF FILING, and, if assigned, the NAMES OF THE ASSIGNEES.

If you desire to have the patent issue to ASSIGNEES, an assignment containing a REQUEST to that effect, together with the FEE for recording the same, must be filed in this Office on or before the date of payment of final fee.

Additional copies of Specifications and Drawings will be charged for at the following rates: Single Copies, uncertified, 10 cents each. The money should accompany the order.

Very respectfully,

John S. Seymour

Commissioner of Patents.

After allowance, and prior to payment of the final fee, applicants should carefully scrutinize the description to see that their statements and language are correct, as mistakes not incurred through the fault of the office, and not affording legal grounds for reissues, will not be corrected after the delivery of the letters patent to the patentee or his agent.

The within title is that given by the Examiner in charge, as most appropriate to your invention. Should you desire a change in the same, satisfactory reasons MUST be given therefor on or before the payment of the final fee.

SEE THE SERIAL NUMBER AT THE HEAD OF THIS NOTICE

Serial No. *539040*

and Gazette Division.
Communications should be addressed to
"The Commissioner of Patents,
Washington, D. C."

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

U. S. Patent Office,

Washington, D. C.,

Dec 7, 18*95**Claude H Gaskins**9,
L Bagger & Co
City*

SIR:

Your application for a patent for an IMPROVEMENT IN*Stringed Musical Instruments*filed *Feby 20*, 18*95*, has been examined
and again **ALLOWED**.The final fee, **TWENTY DOLLARS**, in the above-entitled case
was received *Dec 7*, 18*95*

Very respectfully,

Thos. Seymour

Commissioner of Patents.

MEMORANDUM

OF

FEE PAID AT U S. PATENT OFFICE.

(Be careful to give correct Serial No.)

Serial No. *539 040*, 1895

INVENTOR:

Claude H. Gaskins

PATENT TO BE ISSUED TO

him

NAME OF INVENTION, AS ALLOWED:

Stringed Musical Instrument

DATE OF PAYMENT:

Dec. 7, 1895

FEE:

\$20

DATE OF FILING:

Feb. 20, 1895

DATE OF CIRCULAR OF ALLOWANCE:

June 7, 1895

The Commissioner of Patents will please apply the accompanying fee as indicated above.

Louis Pappas & Co.

Attorney

SEND PATENT TO

Claude H. Gaskins
No 711 St. Shamokin St.
Shamokin, Northumbria-
land Co., Pa



(No Model.)

C. H. GASKINS.
STRINGED MUSICAL INSTRUMENT.

No. 552,116.

Patented Dec. 31, 1895.

Fig. 1.

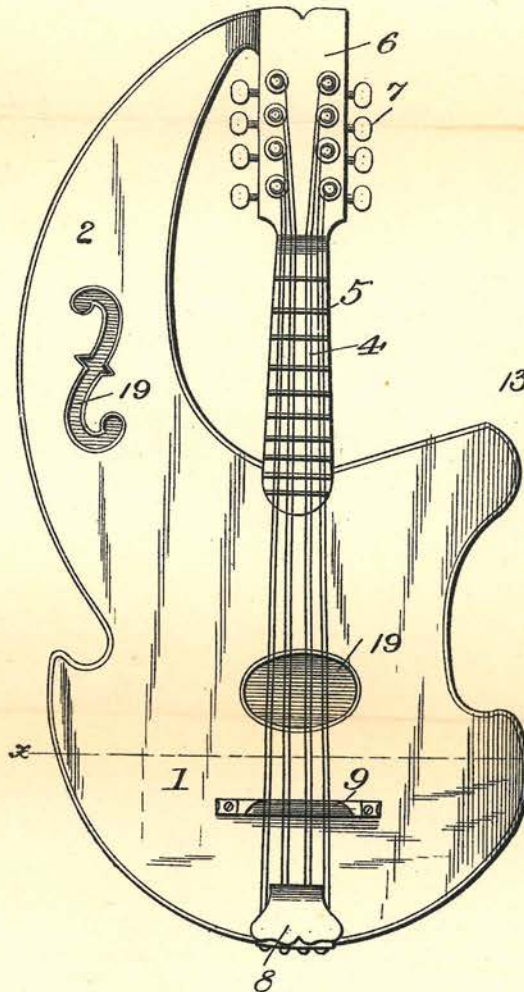


Fig. 2.

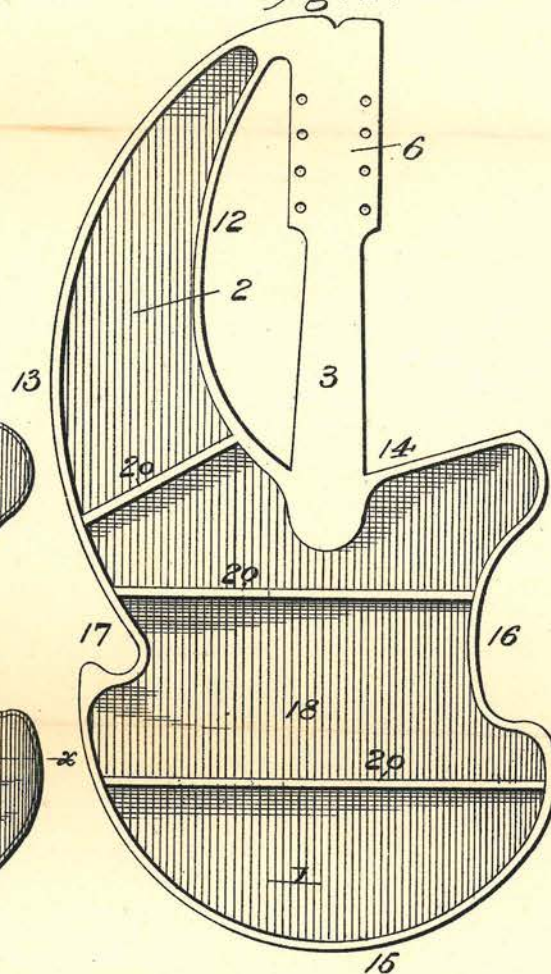
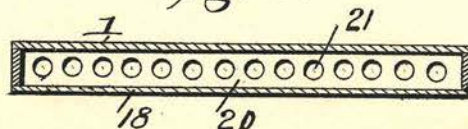


Fig. 3.



WITNESSES:
Frank L. Curand
J. L. Leomby

INVENTOR:
Claude H. Gaskins
Wm. L. Lagger & Co.
Attorneys.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CLAUDE H. GASKINS, OF SHAMOKIN, PENNSYLVANIA.

STRINGED MUSICAL INSTRUMENT.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 552,116, dated December 31, 1895.

Application filed February 20, 1895. Serial No. 539,040. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern.

Be it known that I, CLAUDE H. GASKINS, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Shamokin, in the county of Northumberland and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Stringed Musical Instruments; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form a part of this specification.

My invention relates to improvements in stringed musical instruments, which in some degree combines the characteristics of a mandolin and a harp, and which I term a "mandolin-harp."

The object of the invention is to provide a musical instrument of the above character in which the volume of sound will be increased, greater strength be imparted to the structure, and the tone and quality of the instrument be improved.

The invention consists in the novel construction and combination of parts hereinafter fully described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a top or plan view of a mandolin-harp constructed in accordance with my invention. Fig. 2 is a similar view, the sounding-board being removed, showing the rim, the neck and the head being made integral in one piece. Fig. 3 is a cross-section on the line x x , Fig. 1, showing the perforated braces for strengthening the instrument.

In the said drawings, the reference-numeral 1 designates the body and 2 a curved extension or prolongation on the left or upper side thereof; 3, the neck provided with the usual finger-board 4, frets 5, head 6, and keys 7.

The numeral 8 designates the tail-piece; 9, the bridge.

In constructing the instrument, I proceed as follows: I first saw or otherwise produce out of a suitable piece or block of wood the neck 3, head 6, and the rim consisting of two sections 12 and 13, all of which are made integral. The said rim-sections extend from the left-hand upper end of the head, rearwardly

therefrom, to form the extension 2 and body 1, the said rim following the configuration shown in the drawings, forming the curved front 14, rear portion 15 and side depressions 16 and 17, the latter of which forms a support for the instrument resting upon the knee of the player. The bottom 18 and sounding-board have their edges curved to conform to the configuration of the rim, and are secured thereto, as usual. The sounding-board at a point in front of the bridge, and also in the extension or prolongation, is formed with sound-openings 19. The neck, being formed integral with the head and body, is braced and strengthened, there being no liability of its breaking at its point of junction with the body, which is always the weakest point in instruments of this character or description.

Located at suitable points in the body and extension are braces 20, consisting of thin strips of wood formed with perforations 21, so as not to obstruct the sound-waves.

By forming the body with the extension or prolongation, as described, the volume of sound is increased and the tone of the instrument improved in quality. The neck, head, and rim, being made in a single piece or integral, the instrument is greatly strengthened, whereby it is rendered more durable in use.

Having thus fully described my invention, what I claim is—

In a stringed musical instrument, the combination with the curved body rim, the curved and tapering extension rim, and the neck, united with said body rim and with the contracted end of the said extension made integral therewith and formed with apertures intermediate said contracted end, and the body rim, to receive the string keys, of the bottom secured to said rims, the top secured to said rims provided with sound openings, and the series of braces extending transversely across the instrument and formed with sound openings, substantially as described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereunto affixed my signature in presence of two witnesses.

CLAUDE H. GASKINS.

Witnesses:

P. J. HORIGHTON,
AUGUST PETERSON.