(No Model.)

J. BURTON.

NOTATION SLIP FOR FINGER BOARD INSTRUMENTS.

No. 346,424. Patented July 27, 1886.

FIG. 1.

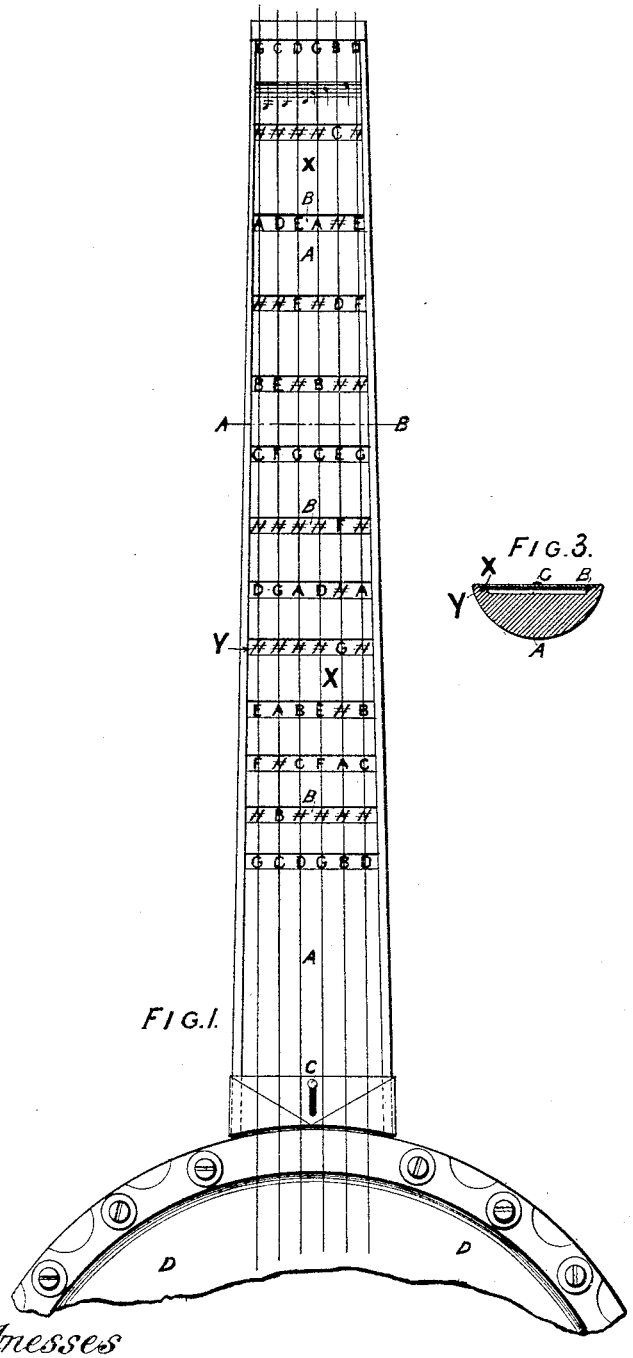

FIG. 2.

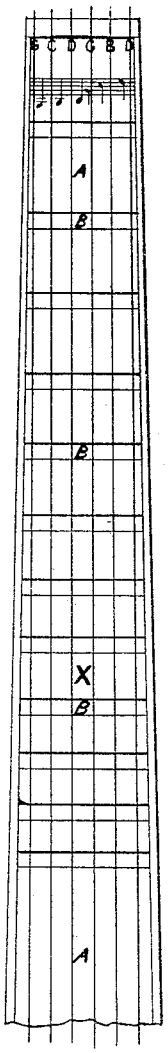

FIG. 3.

Witnesses
L. Weller
A. J. Melchior

Inventor.
John Burton
by A. D. Shaddock
Atty

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN BURTON, OF LONDON, ENGLAND.

NOTATION-SLIP FOR FINGER-BOARD INSTRUMENTS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 346,424, dated July 27, 1886.

Application filed July 1, 1885. Serial No. 170,400. (No model.) Patented in England May 11, 1885, No. 5,781.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN BURTON, of 144 Westminster Bridge Road, London, England, have invented a new and useful Improved Notation-Slip for Finger-Boards of Stringed Instruments, of which the following is a specification.

The improvements consist in furnishing the finger-board of "finger-stopped" stringed instruments with a finger and musical notation guide slip or plate, whereby the player is directed where to place his fingers on the strings of the instruments to produce accurate pitch.

In carrying out my invention I make one or more guide slips or plates of paper or other convenient material fit or pass under the finger-board of the instrument and lie on it, marking off on the guide or guides the various pitch lengths and notes, which will vary according to the size of the instrument. This guide or guides can be made of paper and attached to or placed under the finger-board of the instrument in any way. Preferably it may be loose and made to slide in and out of sight when held in place by a finger-board composed of a sheet of glass, colored as desired, or otherwise furnished with a clear space or spaces or apertures and passing over the guide-slip and under the strings, whereby the pitch lengths and notes are indicated at the aperture or apertures under the cover or finger-board. It is convenient to mark the notes on the guide-slip on the line blue, and spaces red, or one or more colors differing from each other may be used; also, on the guide-slip or on the cover-plate may be musically written the full compass of the instrument as well as the denomination of the strings.

The object of the improvements is to train the learner "stopping" in tune. When he is proficient the guide-slip can be slid or moved out of sight, or wholly removed when not practicing or required.

The accompanying drawings show the invention applied to the finger-boards of a banjo, Figure 1 being a front elevation of a banjo, showing the notation-slip exposed; Fig. 2, a front elevation showing the same slid out of sight or removed; Fig. 3, a cross-section at A B, Fig. 1.

Like letters refer to like parts.

A is the finger-board stock.

X is a fixed glass cover or transparent finger-board, generally painted black, except the spaces B left blank, as in Fig. 2. These are the spaces or openings therein through which the sliding notation-slip Y appears when the stop C, which is fixed to it, is actuated.

In Fig. 1 the stop C is shown in front and pushed up home, and consequently the notations on the slip Y are visible, as shown, in proper position under the strings and glass. The stop C may, however, be otherwise placed.

On pulling down the stop C the notation-slip will be covered and the finger-board will appear as in Fig. 2. Of course the notation-slip might be fixed and the glass made to slide.

I am aware that indicators, charts, or notation-slips have been used for pianos and other keyed instruments; but

What I claim is—

The combination, with finger-stopped stringed instruments, of the improved notation slip or slips Y, the actuating-stop C, and the glass or other cover X, all substantially as described and illustrated, and for the purposes set forth.

In testimony whereof I have signed this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

JOHN BURTON.

Witnesses:
W. A. MORLEY,
H. I. HADDAN.