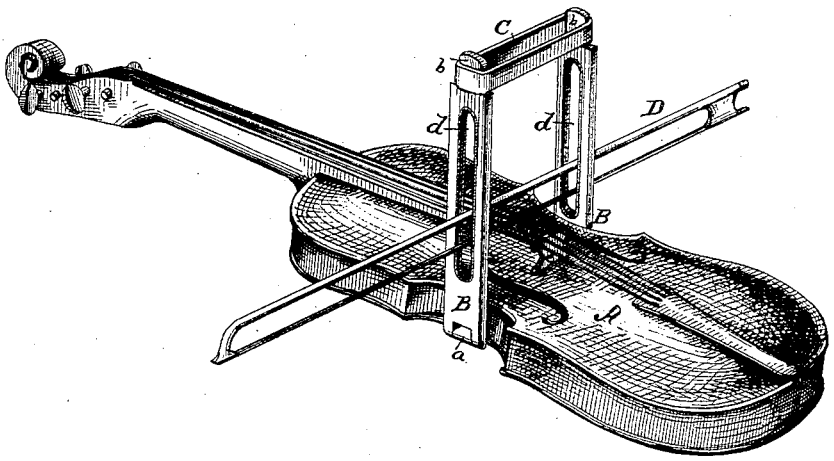
H. BARRENTHER.

Attachment for Violins.

No. 196,325. Patented Oct. 23, 1877.



Witnesses:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY BARRENTHER, OF WINSTED, CONNECTICUT.

IMPROVEMENT IN ATTACHMENTS FOR VIOLINS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **196,325**, dated October 23, 1877; application filed March 31, 1877.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY BARRENTHER, of Winsted, in the county of Litchfield and State of Connecticut, have invented a certain new and useful improvement in a device or apparatus to attach to a violin, viola, or violoncello, to enable the learner or performer to draw the bow in the right position; and the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making a part of this specification, in which the figure represents a perspective view of a violin with the apparatus attached and the bow placed in position for operation.

The object of my invention is to enable the learner and performer on the violin or violoncello to draw the bow in a direct line, at the proper distance from the bridge, at a right angle with the strings; and the invention consists in providing a light frame, of wood or other suitable material, hinged to a bar the proper length to just reach across the narrow portion of the violin, so that when placed under the back of the instrument, and the two end pieces turned up at a right angle, and the tops held by an elastic band, the frame is firmly held in position on the instrument, the vertical pieces of the frame being provided with oblong openings through them of sufficient length and width to insert and operate the bow.

To enable others to make and use my invention, I will describe it more in detail, referring to the drawing and the letters marked thereon.

The device or apparatus to accomplish my purpose may be made of any suitable material, such as wood, hard rubber, or metal, and of such dimensions as to fit the instrument on which it is used.

The violin A rests on the base-bar *a*, the hinged bars or pieces B B being turned up at a right angle, so as to press against the waist or narrow portion of the instrument, and an elastic rubber band, C, is placed on the top of the pieces B B, they being provided with shoulder-notches or reduced parts *b b*, to hold it in position.

The upright posts or pieces B B are provided with oblong openings or slots *d d*, into which the bow D is inserted to operate, it being as free to move laterally and conform to the curve of the bridge *e*, when manipulated upon the strings, as though the apparatus were not clamped upon the instrument.

The device is so simple in its construction that it can be placed or removed from the instrument in a minute or less of time.

Thus it will readily be seen that the learner on any stringed instrument requiring the use of the bow will be enabled to place it in the proper place on the strings in relation to the bridge *e* of the instrument, and to move it in a straight line at a right angle across the strings, thereby insuring a better vibration and a sonorous and correct quality of tone. It also gives the learner the correct habit of bending the wrist and directing the fore-arm, and also raising the upper arm—in short, to educate any one using the invention to do the whole work of moving the bow gracefully and according to the strictest rules.

In giving instruction on the violin and other kindred instruments, it has ever been one of the most difficult things to accomplish for the pupil to draw the bow in a direct line at a right angle with the strings of his instrument, and at the proper distance from the bridge, gracefully, and with that easy movement necessary to make an accomplished performer; and, moreover, both the quantity and quality of the tone of an instrument are greatly varied by the manner in which the bow is manipulated upon the strings.

By my invention—the exceedingly simple, cheap, and efficient apparatus, as above described—I have been enabled to remedy all of the difficulties hitherto experienced by the learner in a short time, and relieve myself of the greater part of the task of giving lessons on the violin, viola, violoncello, and cello-basso, and graduate uniformly better performers, with a less number of lessons, as heretofore fully one-half of the time was consumed in practice with the bow.

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

1. An improved violin attachment, consisting of the bar *a*, the upright pieces B B, having slots *d d*, adapted to be readily secured to

and detached from the instrument, substantially as described.

2. The bar *a*, the hinged upright pieces B B, having slots *d d*, and the elastic band C, all arranged to operate substantially as and for the purpose herein set forth.

In testimony whereof I hereunto subscribe my name to the above specification for application for Letters Patent in the presence of two witnesses.

HENRY BARRENTHER.

Witnesses:

S. F. DICKERMAN,

GEO. M. CARRINGTON.