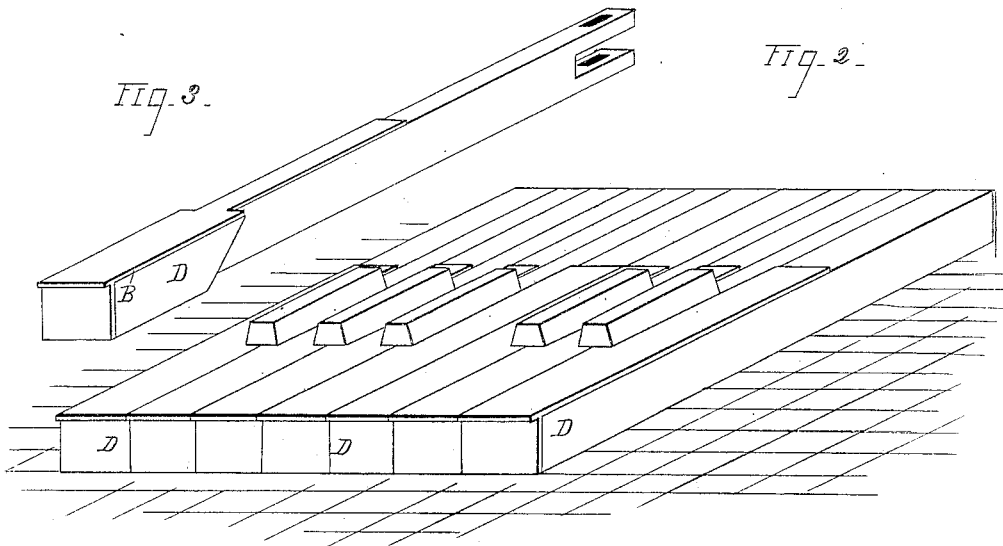
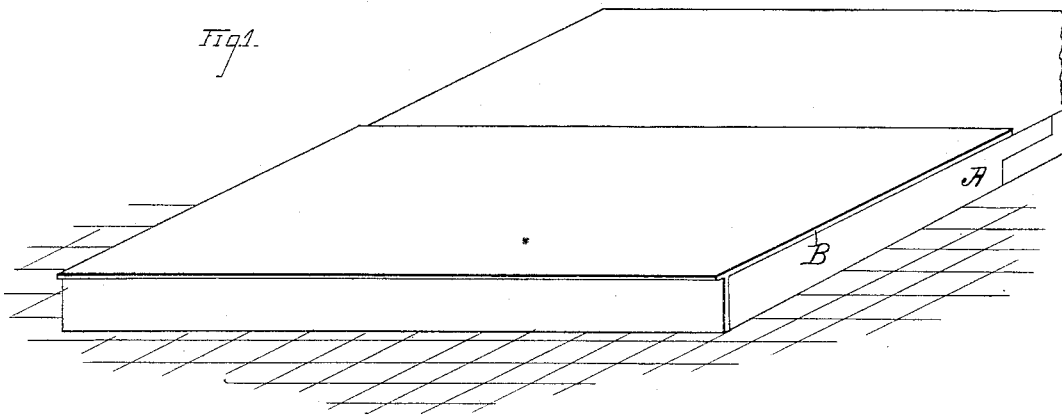


J. W. HYATT.  
Piano-Key.

No. 210,780.

Patented Dec. 10, 1878.



Witnesses;  
Chas. D. Hill  
M. B. Magruder.

Inventor;  
John W. Hyatt  
By his Attys.  
Cox and Cox

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN W. HYATT, OF NEWARK, NEW JERSEY, ASSIGNOR TO THE CELLULOID MANUFACTURING COMPANY, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

## IMPROVEMENT IN PIANO-KEYS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **210,780**, dated December 10, 1878; application filed May 31, 1878.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JOHN W. HYATT, of the city of Newark, in the county of Essex and State of New Jersey, have invented a new and useful Improvement in the Manufacture of Piano-Keys, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

The invention relates to an improved key-board for pianos, organs, and other analogous instruments; and consists in covering a suitable key-board blank on its exposed upper surface and edge with a sheet or scroll of some plastic composition, which is cemented or otherwise caused to adhere to the surfaces whereon it is desired. After being thus coated, the blank is sawed or otherwise severed into sections, each one of which constitutes a covered key.

In this manner it is plain that at a single operation an entire key-board can be covered, from which when severed the keys are formed. In this manner the old and tedious operation of covering each key separately after it has been formed is entirely obviated.

Referring to the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 represents a perspective view of a key-board blank covered with plastic composition at the parts whereon the ordinary facing is usually laid. Fig. 2 represents a group of the keys cut out of the covered blank. Fig. 3 represents a single key covered with the plastic composition or facing.

In the accompanying drawings, A represents a key-board blank, composed of wood or any other suitable material, of the size and contour required to form the number of keys of the dimensions required. Over the upper surface and outer edge of this blank, and cemented or otherwise secured thereto in a suitable manner, is provided a thin sheet or scroll, B, of plastic composition. So far as known, the material termed "celluloid" is the best adapted to the purpose of covering the blank, though it is plain that other materials of a plastic nature may answer. The covering of the blank with the sheet of composition or material completes the first essential step toward the production of the invention.

The next operation is to sever the blank into sections of the desired size to form the keys D.

Now, as the scroll B adheres very closely to the board A, it is plain that at every operation of the severing device a complete covered key is removed from the board, and that in this manner the keys may be very rapidly and economically produced.

In securing the scroll upon the blank or board, care should be exercised to see that it is firmly cemented at every place thereto, in order that it may not be torn off or otherwise displaced in the operation of cutting out the keys.

Celluloid has been found to be admirably adapted to serve for a covering, as it can be readily and smoothly cut, is susceptible of a very high polish, is very agreeable to the touch, and if any ornamentation is desired upon the surface or edges of the keys it is only necessary to warm the celluloid, and by means of suitably-shaped dies or instruments impress the desired design, which is retained upon the key, as the composition hardens upon becoming cold.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. As a new article of manufacture, a blank key-board covered with a continuous strip or roll of plastic composition, substantially as specified.

2. The within-described process of forming piano or analogous keys, which consists in covering a key-board blank with a strip of plastic material, and then cutting out each key from the coated blank, substantially as specified.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing improvement in the manufacture of piano-keys, as above described, I have herewith set my hand this 20th day of May, 1878.

JOHN W. HYATT.

Witnesses:

ABRAHAM MANNERS,  
HARRY COX.