

# PATENT SPECIFICATION

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## PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION.



### Improvements in Stringed Musical Instruments.

I, EDWARD RICHARDSON, a British Subject, of 48, Portland Road, Nottingham, do hereby declare the nature of this invention to be as follows:—

5 This invention comprises improvements in stringed musical instruments and has particular, although not exclusive, reference to guitars; the main object of the invention being so to construct an instrument of this type as to enable one and the same instrument to be utilised for obtaining different types of music the production of which has hitherto necessitated the employment of a plurality of instruments; thereby considerably increasing the utility and enhancing the value of the instrument.

10 Broadly, the present invention comprises a stringed instrument (e.g. guitar) embodying in a self-contained manner a plurality of separated sets or groups of strings, said sets being individually and selectively operative at will and each set functioning to produce a different class of music or different musical effects.

15 More particularly the invention comprises a guitar which embodies two sets of strings so arranged or incorporated as to constitute in one instrument two different types of guitar, e.g. a Spanish and Hawaiian guitar.

20 In one method of carrying out the invention a guitar is provided with a body of the customary design, but instead of said body having a single finger-board extending therefrom same is provided with two finger-boards laterally spaced apart and projecting parallel or substantially parallel with each other. Each finger-board is provided with a set or group of strings, say for example six strings, each set of strings being connected in the customary manner at the head of the instrument, passed over a nut

45 raised over the finger-board, passed over a bridge on the instrument body and connected to any suitable type of tail piece at the lower part of said body. The nut and bridge pieces appertaining to the one set of strings are comparatively low so as to produce a guitar of the Spanish or Plectrum type in which the strings are pressed down on to during the playing of same. The nut and bridge pieces over which the second set of strings extend are comparatively high so as to maintain the stretched strings raised above their finger-board and enable the strings to be pressed by steel or similar fret without moving same into contact with the finger-board thereby producing on said second set of strings musical effects as produced on a Hawaiian guitar.

50 55 60 65 70 75 The head of the instrument, i.e. the portion at the outer end of the finger-boards advantageously constitutes a single piece or member connecting together said finger-boards, the strings appertaining to the two sets being adjustably connected to said head in the customary manner. The finger-boards are also provided with transverse marks at intervals in their length to denote semitones.

80 From the above it will be appreciated that in one and the same instrument two guitars are provided which can be operated upon selectively as required, thereby obviating the necessity of employing and transporting two separate instruments for producing the two classes of music.

Dated this 30th day of January, 1933.  
ERIC POTTER,  
Chartered Patent Agent,  
London and Nottingham.

## COMPLETE SPECIFICATION.

### Improvements in Stringed Musical Instruments.

85 I, EDWARD RICHARDSON, a British Subject, of 48, Portland Road, Nottingham, do hereby declare the nature of this invention and in what manner the same  
[Price 1/-]

90 is to be performed, to be particularly described and ascertained in and by the following statement:—  
This invention comprises improvements

in stringed musical instruments particularly guitars wherein different musical effects may be obtained from different groups of strings.

5 According to the present invention a stringed musical instrument (e.g. a guitar) comprises a body with tone chamber, a plurality of laterally-spaced necks with finger-boards extending from said  
10 body and a separate set of strings extending over each neck, and wherein the necks terminate in one common head and all of the strings appertaining to the separate sets are connected to said head.

15 Advantageously two separately operable sets of strings are provided, the said two sets of strings being raised to different heights above their respective finger-boards so that when playing the instrument  
20 the strings of one set or group are adapted to be pressed on to the associated finger-board while the strings of the second set or group which are raised to a higher level above the finger-board are adapted to be played by movement of a  
25 steel fret over same without pressing the strings into contact with the finger-board. By this means musical effects obtained from one set or group of strings are different from those obtained when playing  
30 on the other set.

Although a dual stringed musical instrument such as a guitar with tone chamber has previously been proposed having  
35 two necks, provided with finger boards, extending from the same body and a separate set of separately operable strings extending over each neck, the two necks are not, as is the case in the present invention connected to a common head;  
40 neither has it been suggested in such instrument to locate the two sets of strings at different heights above their respective necks. Also in a previously proposed instrument which combines a harp with a  
45 guitar, two sets of strings extend from a common tone chamber with single sound hole, but in such instrument there is only one finger board over which one set of strings extend, the other set extending to a frame projecting laterally from the top  
50 of said board.

Additionally in a guitar or the like it has been proposed to raise either one or  
55 two strings of a set of six strings above the level of the remainder and carry same over an extension of the instrument bridge; but in such arrangement there are not separate sets of strings extending over laterally spaced necks connected to a common head as in the present invention.  
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For the purpose of more fully describing the nature of this invention reference will now be made to the accompanying  
65 drawings, wherein:—

Figure 1 illustrates in front elevation an instrument according to the present invention.

Figure 2 illustrates the same instrument in side elevation.

In one method of carrying out the invention a guitar is provided with a body 1 of the customary design, but instead of said body having a single finger-board extending therefrom same is provided  
70 with two finger-boards 2 laterally spaced apart and projecting parallel or substantially parallel with each other. Each finger-board 2 is provided with a complete set or group of strings 3 preferably six strings, each set of strings being connected in the customary manner at the head 4 of the instrument, passed over a nut at said head so as to maintain the strings raised over the finger-board,  
75 passed over a bridge on the instrument body 1 and connected to any suitable type of hinged tail piece 5 at the lower part of said body. The nut 6 and bridge 7 appertaining to one set of strings are comparatively low so as to produce a guitar of the Spanish or Plectrum type in which the strings are pressed down on to the finger-board during playing. The nut 6a and bridge 7a over which the second set of strings extend are comparatively high so as to maintain the stretched strings raised above their finger-board 2 and enable the strings to be pressed by a steel or similar fret without bringing  
80 same into contact with the finger-board, thereby producing on said second set of strings musical effects as produced on a Hawaiian guitar. Either set of strings can, however, be tuned to function as a Banjo.  
85

The head 4 of the instrument, i.e. the portion at the outer end of the finger-boards 2, constitutes a member connecting together said finger-boards and the two neck portions 8 on which said boards are mounted, the strings appertaining to the two sets being adjustably connected to tuning elements 9 provided in said head in the customary manner. The finger-boards 2 are also provided with transverse marks or raised lines 10 at intervals in their length to denote semi-tones.  
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Having now particularly described and ascertained the nature of my said invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, I declare that what I claim is:—  
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1. A stringed musical instrument, e.g. a guitar, comprising a body with tone chamber, a plurality of laterally spaced necks with finger-boards extending from said body and a separate set of strings extending over each neck, and wherein the necks terminate in one common head  
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and all of the strings appertaining to the separate sets are connected to said head.

2. A stringed musical instrument in accordance with claim 1 and embodying 5 two separately operable sets of strings, said two sets of strings being raised to different heights above their respective finger-boards.

3. A stringed musical instrument 10 according to the last preceding claim in which each set of strings is stretched over a nut at the head of the instrument and a bridge piece near the foot of said instrument, and in which the nut and the bridge 15 appertaining to one set are higher than the nut and bridge appertaining to the second set.

4. A stringed musical instrument as claimed in the last preceding claim and

characterised in that the bridge piece 20 near the foot of the instrument is a one-piece member common to both sets of strings.

5. A stringed musical instrument as claimed in any of the foregoing claims, 25 characterised in that all of the strings appertaining to the separate sets extend from one common tone chamber having a single sound hole.

6. A stringed musical instrument con- 30 structed and arranged substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawing.

Dated this 12th day of August, 1933.

ERIC POTTER,  
Chartered Patent Agent,  
London and Nottingham.

[This Drawing is a reproduction of the Original on a reduced scale.]

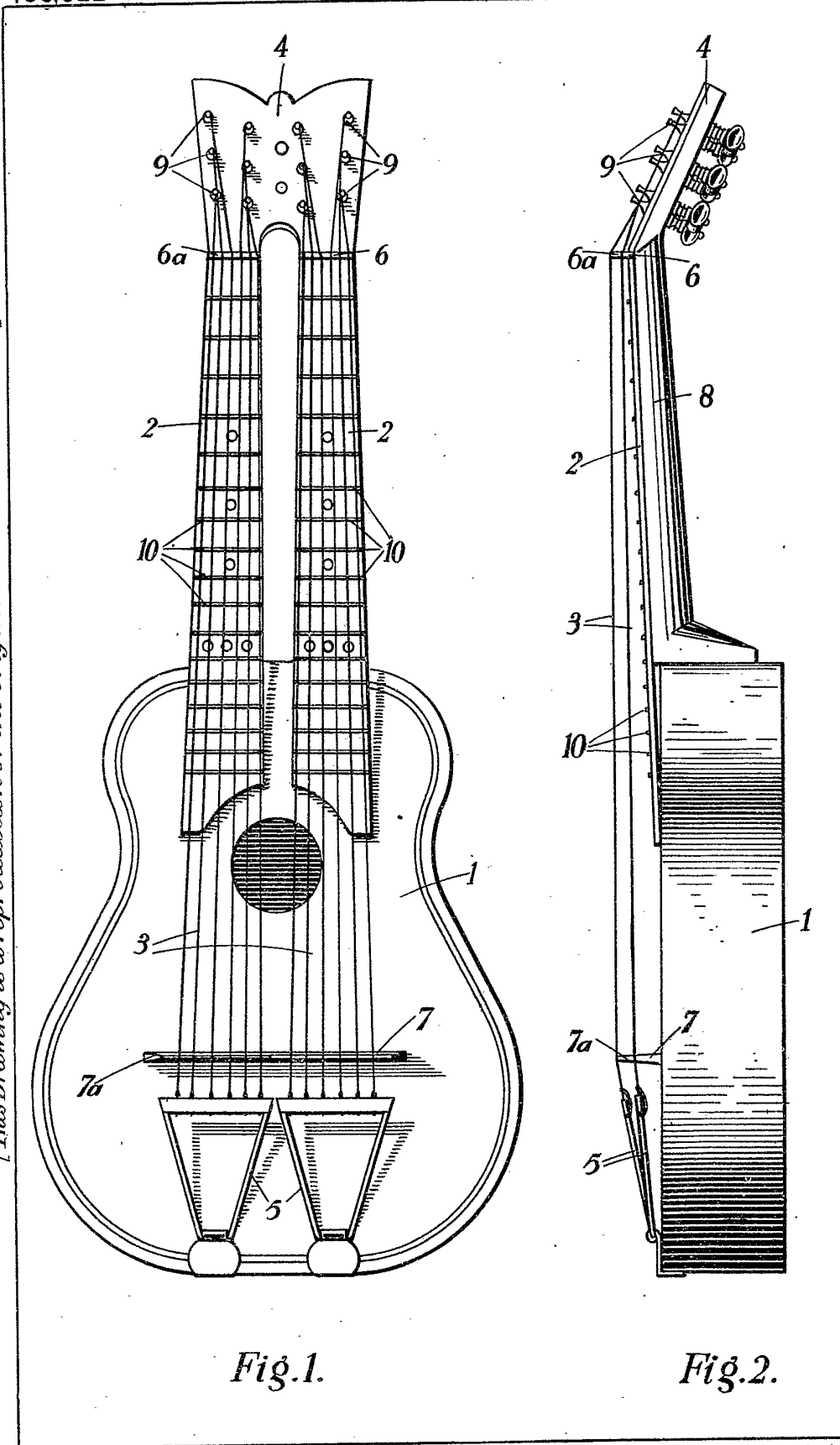


Fig.1.

Fig.2.