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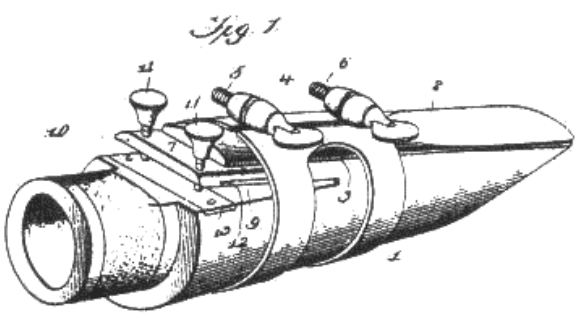

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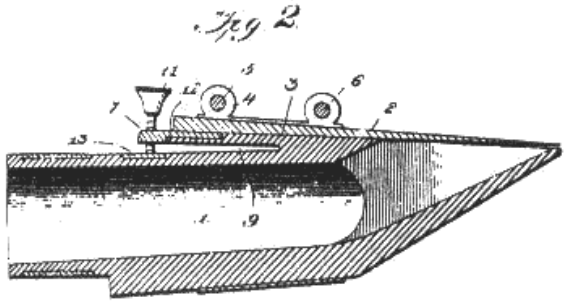

Witnesses

United States Patent Office

FREDERICK CLAPP, MILLER'S FALLS, MA

554,242 **Mouth-Piece for Reed-Instruments** **February 11, 1896**

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FREDERICK CLAPP, a citizen of the United States, residing at Miller's Falls, in the country of Franklin and the State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Mouthpiece for Reed-Instruments, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to a mouth piece for clarinets, saxophones, and similar reed-instruments, the object in view being to provide means for adjusting the reed to secure the desired interval between the tip or point thereof and the face of the mouthpiece.

Heretofore it has been the practice, when the tip or point of the reed is at too great or too small an interval from the face of the mouthpiece, to bend or deflect the same; but such an operation, in addition to being accomplished with the risk of defacing or injuring the mouthpiece, is effective only to a limited degree and for a short time, for the reason that the natural elasticity of the cane of which the reed is formed ultimately returns to its original shape and position. Therefore it is the main object of my invention to provide means for adjusting the reed positively to avoid the bending thereof, and hence arrange the tip or point permanently at the desired interval from the mouthpiece.

Further objects and advantages of this invention will appear in the following description, and the novel features thereof will be particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a clarinet-mouthpiece constructed in accordance with my invention. Fig. 2 is a central longitudinal section of the same.

Similar numerals of reference indicate corresponding parts in both figures of the drawings.

1 designates a mouthpiece of the kind employed for clarinets, which may be made of wood, hard rubber, metal, or any other suitable material, and 2, a reed of the ordinary kind, which is arranged in contact with the flat face 3 of the mouthpiece and held in place by any suitable means — as for instance, the clamp 4 shown in the drawings. This clamp is of the ordinary construction with front and rear adjusting-screws 5 and 6.

The rear or butt end of the reed is arranged in contact with and held in place by a tongue 7, provided with means whereby its rear end may be adjusted toward and from the axis of the mouthpiece to vary the pitch of the reed, and hence vary the interval between the tip of point thereof and the face of the mouthpiece. This tongue may be constructed in a variety of ways, of which one only is shown in the drawings, the same being integral with the mouthpiece and formed by sawing or providing in any suitable way a kerf 9, approximately parallel with the plane of the face of the mouthpiece, whereby an interval or space separated the surface of the tongue from the contiguous portion of the mouthpiece. In practice the tongue is preferably increased slightly toward its upper or front end, where it is attached to the mouthpiece in order to provide the necessary strength and spring action. In the drawings, the mouthpiece is shown as constructed of wood or hard rubber, in which case I preferably attach a strengthening-plate 10 of metal to the exterior surface of the tongue to receive the strain of adjusting devices, which, in the construction illustrated, consists of thumb-screws 11.

The strengthening plate is provided with an undercut or dovetailed shoulder 12 for engagement with the beveled extremity of the tongue, and the thumb-screws bear at their extremities against a wear plate 13 secured to the mouthpiece contiguous to the etc...