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64 **A stringed musical instrument.**

67 A stringed musical instrument such as a guitar, banjo or the like has a plurality of strings (15, 16, 17, 18) stretched between a bridge (19) and a nut (20). The strings (15, 16, 17, 18) are of substantially circular cross section and made from an elastomeric material such as silicone rubber; all strings are monolithic. The bridge (19) incorporates one or more piezo-electric transducer (41, 42) mounted as a bimorphic element in a simple beam mounting between fixed supports

(40) on the bridge (19) and in acoustic contact with the body of the instrument through resilient baffle pads (43, 44) in contact with the face of the piezo-electric element (41, 42) remote from the supports (40). By using elastomeric strings the length of the fingerboard of the instrument can be reduced to about 0.45 m, which is substantially less than that of a conventional instrument utilising wire wound nylon or steel strings.

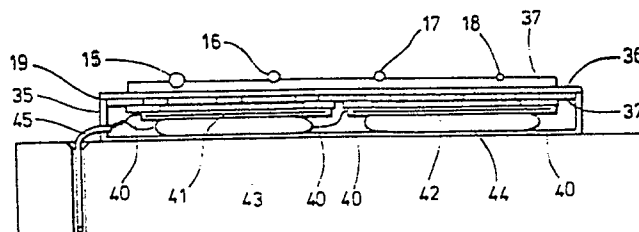


FIG 3



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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EP 86 30 6367

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.4)
A	US-A-3 538 233 (COMPTON) * Column 1, lines 69-72; column 2, lines 1-16; figure 1 * ---	1	G 10 H 3/18 G 10 D 3/10
A	US-A-3 826 171 (KAAR) * Column 2, lines 34-38; figure 7 * ---	1,2,8, 10	
A	US-A-4 218 951 (TRESSEL) * Column 2, lines 52-68; column 3, lines 1-24; figure 3 * -----	1,6	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.4)
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 07-11-1988	Examiner PULLUARD R.J.P.A.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			