

Mandoline-banjo

Date

1888-1900 ca.

Primary Maker

Henry August Pollmann

Description

Antonio Bini of Brooklyn applied for a patent for the mandoline-banjo in 1886, assigning it to August Pollmann. The invention was awarded U.S. Patent number 362,417 in 1887. As Bini stated, "The object of my invention is to provide a mandolin which is so constructed that a great number of tones can be produced, and the same played either in the same manner as a banjo or as a mandolin, combining thereby the advantages of both instruments in one." Bini was the son of the first Italian luthier in New York, Joseph Bini, who immigrated in the 1840s and played guitar at P. T. Barnum's American Museum. Antonio Bini was listed as a musical instrument or guitar maker in all census and directory listings from the 1870s through 1910, so it is likely that he was the manufacturer for these instruments on behalf of Pollmann, but they were sold only with Pollmann's name. Neck: mahogany or Spanish cedar Peghead: mahogany or Spanish cedar, integral with neck Fingerboard: rosewood; 23 nickel-silver T-frets; single-dot mother-of-pearl inlays behind 5th, 7th, 9th, and 12th frets Heel cap: top point of back extends upward and functions as heel cap Top: spruce; two-ply light and dark hardwood strips inlaid around outer edge Ribs: two-piece rosewood Back: two-piece rosewood Pickguard: none Rosette: two sets of two-ply light and dark hardwood strips with space in between, set in from edge Bridge: ebony with nickel-silver saddle [fret-wire] Linings: kerfed Spanish cedar or mahogany Neck block: mahogany or Spanish cedar; integral with neck End block: dark-stained hardwood Top braces: three spruce parallel braces with tapered ends, one above soundhole Back



braces: three spruce parallel braces with tapered ends, one above soundhole Top nut: bone 5th-string nut: bone Tuners: five nickel-plated brass tension tuners with ivory-plastic heads Tailpiece: nickel-plated brass Endpin: ebony Finish: tan lacquer with craquelure

Dimensions

Total instrument length 87.3 cm 34 3/8 inches

Fingerboard length 45.8 cm 18 1/32 inches Nut to bridge

60.9 cm 23 31/32 inches Nut to neck and body joint 39.3

cm 15 15/32 inches Belly width/diameter 25.8 cm 10 5/32

inches Fingerboard width at nut 3.2 cm 1 1/4 inches

Fingerboard width at body joint 5.0 cm 1 31/32 inches

Diameter of resonator back n/a Width of upper bout n/a

Width of lower bout n/a Width of waist n/a Body depth at

neck 6.8 cm 2 11/16 inches Body depth at bottom 8.2 cm

3 1/4 inches