MUSICAL INSTRUMENT SUPPORT

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates in general to a stabilizing support for a musical instrument of the type having a body and fretted neck, e.g., guitars, banjos, mandolins and the like, and more particularly, to a musical instrument mounted device which positions the instrument in a substantially perpendicular orientation to a musician's body to provide total freedom for the musician's hands to play the instrument in a completely new way, thus allowing the musician to create new techniques and sounds previously unknown to any musician.

One such musical instrument to which the stabilizing support of the present invention is uniquely suited is the guitar. As a stringed musical instrument, the guitar is capable of being played by a variety of techniques which produce an equal variety of acoustical effects. In all such circumstances, the guitar is oriented with respect to the guitar player's body in a manner to facilitate the manipulation of the sound reproducing strings by the player's hands and fingers in an uninhibited manner. To create new playing techniques and sounds, it is desirable that the guitar be supported in a manner which leaves both hands of the player free to explore the strings which overlie the guitar body and fretted neck. In addition, as nearly all musicians prefer to view the fretted neck of the guitar as they are playing, to be sure that the proper notes or chords are being fingered, it is desirable that the guitar be arranged to afford the player maximum visibility of the guitar playing surface.

If the musician is in a sitting position, the guitar can usually be rested across the player's lap and supported by the player's legs. Even when sitting, it is sometimes desirable to provide means for supporting the guitar, other than directly against the player's legs. For example, U.S. Pat. No. 1,285,802 discloses a device which is attached to the fretted neck to facilitate supporting the guitar when the musician is in a sitting position. However, it is not always possible, or even desirable, to be in a sitting position. Furthermore, even if it is possible, many musicians prefer to play from a standing position. This is particularly true of musicians who sing while they accompany themselves on the guitar. Of course, various types of support straps have been devised, which usually attach at opposite ends to the guitar body and fretted neck for placing about the neck and shoulders of the musician. These straps do not serve the purpose of leaving both hands of the guitar player free to explore the guitar, as well as maintaining the guitar in a substantially perpendicular orientation to the player's body for a better view of the fretted neck. In fact, these straps tend to position the instrument in a substantially vertical orientation, so that the musician must still exert effort, generally with the hand gripping the fretted neck, so as to position the instrument in an oblique plane for better playing of the frets.

Accordingly, there remains as unsolved need for a universally acceptable device for stringed musical instruments of the type having a body and fretted neck, suitable both for supporting and positioning the instrument for better viewing of the playing surface and leaving both of the musician's hands free to explore the musical instrument while the musician is standing.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is broadly an object of the present invention to provide a musical instrument support for supporting a stringed musical instrument in an angular orientation to a player's body to allow the player to create new techniques and sounds previously unknown to any player, in a manner which overcomes or avoids one or more of the foregoing disadvantages resulting from the use of the above-mentioned prior art device, and which fulfills the specific requirements of such a musical instrument support for use with, for example, guitars, banjos, mandolins and the like.

Specifically, it is within the contemplation of one aspect of the present invention to provide a musical instrument support which permits playing of the instrument while the musician is standing, either in a unique perpendicular orientation for maximum visibility of the entire playing surface, or in a conventional vertical orientation when and as desired by the musician.

In accordance with one embodiment of the present invention, there is described a stringed musical instrument constructed of an instrument body having front and rear surfaces, sound producing means extending over a portion of the front surface, and a device mounted onto the rear surface for positioning the instrument body in an angular orientation to a player's body, the device including an attachment movable between an inoperative position overlying the rear surface and an operative position at an angle to the rear surface, the attachment engaging the player's body when in the operative position for maintaining the instrument body in the angular orientation and disengaging from the player's body when in the inoperative position for maintaining the instrument body in other than the angular orientation.

In accordance with the above embodiment, the device further includes a pair of spaced-apart mounting blocks attached to the rear surface and a rod extending therebetween, and wherein the attachment is movably mounted on the rod for rotational movement between the operative and inoperative positions and for lateral movement between a locked and unlocked position.

Further in accordance with the above embodiment, the attachment includes a projection extending therefrom and engagable with one of the mounting blocks when the attachment is rotated about the rod into the operative position while being laterally moved along the rod into the locked position by a compressed spring, whereby the attachment is locked into the operative position substantially perpendicular to the rear surface.

Further in accordance with the above embodiment, one of the mounting blocks is provided with an opening for receiving the projection when the attachment is rotated into the operative position, and wherein the rod extends through the center of the opening and through the center of the projection along one of its axes, whereby the projection is received within the opening when the attachment is in the operative position.

Further in accordance with the above embodiment, the rod extends off-center through the projection along the other of its axes, whereby the projection is prevented from being received within the opening when the attachment is in the inoperative position.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The above description, as well as further objects, features and advantages of the present invention, will be