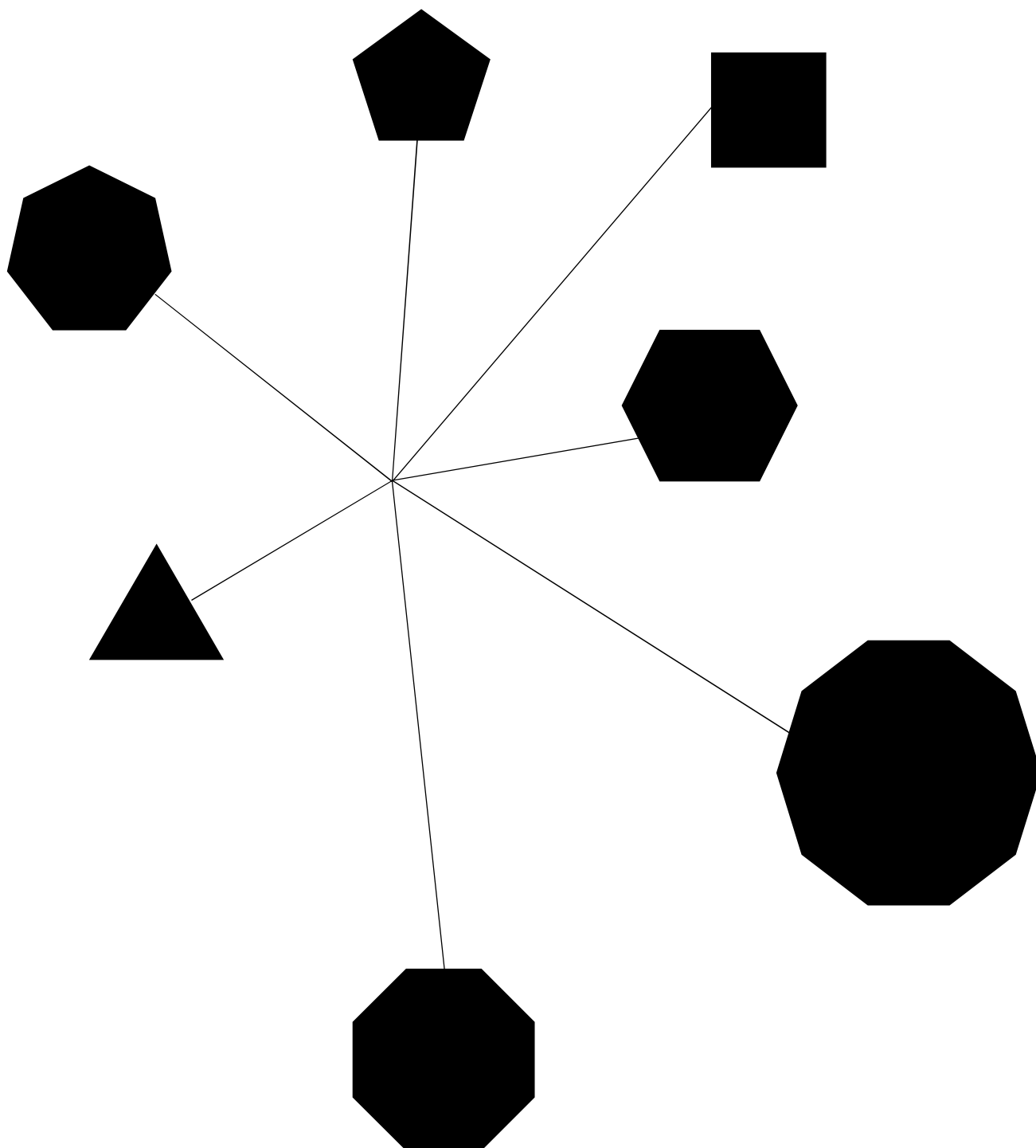


like glue his  
dead body  
holds me.

soprano | alto flute | bass clarinet | violin | cello

**R . M c M A S T E R S**

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but why did i kill him? why? why? in the small, gilded room, near the stair? my ears rack and throb with his cry, and his eyes goggle under his hair, as my fingers sink into the fair white skin of his throat. it was i! i killed him! my god! don't you hear? i shook him until his red tongue hung flapping out through the black, queer, swollen lines of his lips. and i clung with my nails drawing blood, while i flung the loose, heavy body in fear. fear lest he should still not be dead. i was drunk with the lust of his life. the blood-drops oozed slow from his head and dabbled a chair. and our strife lasted one reeling second, his knife lay and winked in the lights overhead. and the waltz from the ballroom i heard, when i called him a low, sneaking cur. and the wail of the violins stirred my brute anger with visions of her. as i throttled his windpipe, the purr of his breath with the waltz became blurred. i have ridden ten miles through the dark, with that music, an infernal din, pounding rhythmic inside me. just hark! one! two! three! and my fingers sink in to his flesh when the violins, thin and straining with passion, grow stark. one! two! three! oh, the horror of sound! while she danced i was crushing his throat. he had tasted the joy of her, wound round her body, and i heard him gloat on the favour. that instant i smote. one! two! three! how the dancers swirl round! he is here in the room, in my arm, his limp body hangs on the spin of the waltz we are dancing, a swarm of blood-drops is hemming us in! round and round! one! two! three! and his sin is red like his tongue lolling warm. one! two! three! and the drums are his knell. he is heavy, his feet beat the floor as i drag him about in the swell of the waltz. with a menacing roar, the trumpets crash in through the door. one! two! three! clangs his funeral bell. one! two! three! in the chaos of space rolls the earth to the hideous glee of death! and so cramped is this place, i stifle and pant. one! two! three! round and round! god! 'tis he throttles me! he has covered my mouth with his face! and his blood has dripped into my heart! and my heart beats and labours. one! two! three! his dead limbs have coiled every part of my body in tentacles. through my ears the waltz jangles. like glue his dead body holds me athwart. one! two! three! give me air! oh! my god! one! two! three! i am drowning in slime! one! two! three! and his corpse, like a clod, beats me into a jelly! the chime, one! two! three! and his dead legs keep time. air! give me air! air!

my god!

amy Lowell - having heard a waltz by bartok

how to set up,  
should the space allow.

the  
violin

the  
cello

the  
soprano

the  
audience

the  
alto flute

the  
bass  
clarinet

March 11, 1958

A. M. BAER

2,825,968

KNIFE BLADE

Filed Sept. 6, 1956

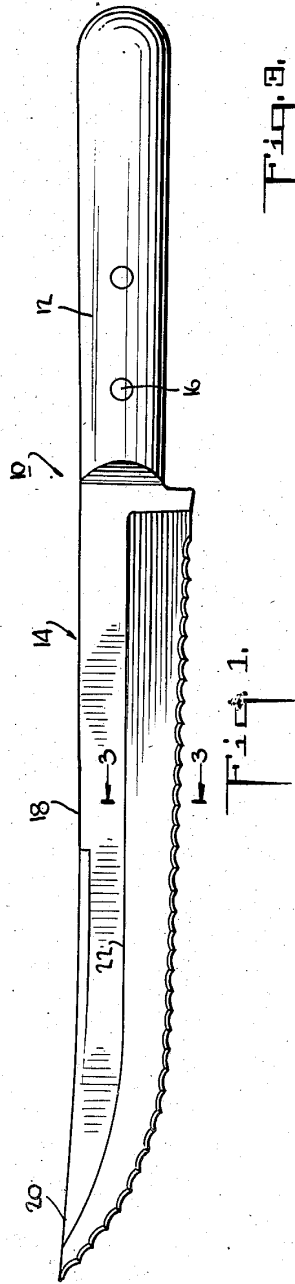


Fig. 1.

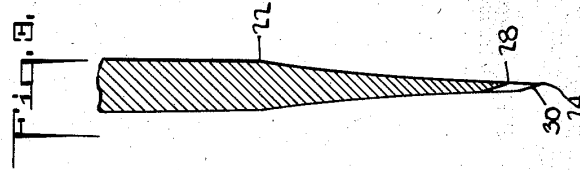


Fig. 3.

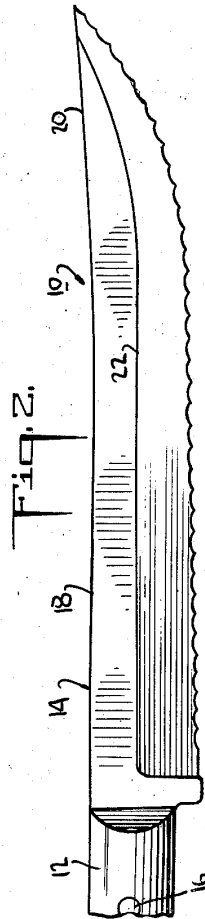


Fig. 2.

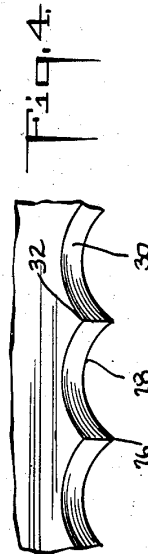


Fig. 4.

INVENTOR.  
ALBERT M. BAER

BY  
*Carroll, Fischel & O'Flaherty*  
ATTORNEYS

# abbreviations used in the score

MSP	molto sul ponticello
MST	molto sul tasto
ORD	ordinario
D: -31(1/7°)	tune note to the overtone series of an open violin E string

for  
Kamratōn

$\text{♩} = 60$

*p*

1

sop

But why did I kill him? Why? Why? In the

a fl

b cl

vln

l.h. pizz

*p*

vc

l.h. pizz

*p*

4

3

3

sop

small, gil - ded room, near the stair? My ears rack and throb with his

a fl

b cl

vln

3

vc

3



like glue his dead body holds me

7

sop

cry, and his eyes gog - gle un - der his hair, as my fin - gers sink

a fl

b cl

vln

vc

10

sop

in - to the fair white skin of his throat.

a fl

b cl

vln

vc

sporadic key clicks on these notes until mm. 24

sporadic key clicks on these notes until mm. 24

like glue his dead body holds me

13 *mp*

sop It was II I

a fl

b cl

vln

vc

16 3 3

sop killed him! My God! Don't you hear? I shook him un -

a fl

b cl

vln

vc

like glue his dead body holds me

19

sop

til his red tongue hung flap - ping out through the black, queer, swol - len lines of his

a fl

b cl

vln

vc

22

sop

lips. And I clung with my nails draw - ing blood,

a fl

b cl

vln

vc

end key clicks

end key clicks

like glue his dead body holds me

25

sop

while I flung the loose, hea - vy bo - dy in fear.

sustain note for one breath

a fl

*mp*

sustain note for one breath

b cl

*mp*

MSP

0

vln

*p*

vc

MSP

*p*

28

sop

a fl

continue similar attack/decay

continue similar attack/decay

b cl

3

vln

I II

vc

like glue his dead body holds me

31

sop Fear lest he should still not be dead. I was drunk with the lust of his life.

a fl

b cl

vln

vc

34

sop The blood-drops oozed slow from his head and dab-bled a chair.

a fl

b cl

vln

vc

like glue his dead body holds me

38

sop

And our strife las - ted one reel - ing sec - ond, his

a fl

b cl

vln

vc

41

sop

knife lay and winked in the lights o - ver - head.

a fl

b cl

vln

vc

D: -31c (l/7°)

like glue his dead body holds me

44

sop

a fl

b cl

vln

vc

47

sop

a fl

b cl

vln

vc

And the waltz from the ball - room I heard, when I called him a low,

change bows freely

ORD

*mp*

ORD

change bows freely

*mp*

like glue his dead body holds me

50

sop

snea-king cur. And the wail of the vi-o-lins stirred my brute an-ger

a fl

b cl

vln

vc

*mp*

*mp*

54

sop

with vi-sions of her. As I thro-tled his wind pipe,

a fl

b cl

vln

vc



like glue his dead body holds me

57

sop

the purr of his breath with the waltz be - came blurred.

a fl

b cl

vln

vc

60

sop

a fl

b cl

vln

vc

like glue his dead body holds me

63

sop

I have rid-den ten miles through the dark, with that mu-sic an in-fer-nal din,

a fl

b cl

vln

vc

66

sop

poun-ding rhyth-mic in-side me. Just hark! One! Two!

a fl

b cl

vln

vc

like glue his dead body holds me

69

sop

Three! And my fin-gers sink in to his flesh when the vi-o-lins thins and

a fl

b cl

vln

vc

72

sop

strai-ning with pas-sion grow stark.

a fl

b cl

vln

vc

like glue his dead body holds me

75

sop

a fl

b cl

vln

vc

78

sop

One! Two! Three Oh, the hor - ror of sound! While she danced

a fl

b cl

vln

vc

bend to random pitch for duration of breath

bend to random pitch for duration of breath

A#: -41(l/11°)

D: -31c(l/7°)

5

3

like glue his dead body holds me

81

sop

I was crush-ing his throat. He had tas-ted the joy of her. wound round her bo-dy, and

a fl

b cl

vln

vc

5

3

3

3

85

sop

I heard him gloat on the fa - vour That in - stant I smote.

a fl

b cl

vln

vc

5

5

continue gliss to mm. 102

continue gliss to mm. 102

like glue his dead body holds me

88

sop

One! Two! Three How the dan - cers swirl round!

a fl

b cl

vln

vc

Detailed description: This system contains measures 88, 89, and 90. The soprano part begins with a whole rest in measure 88, followed by eighth notes in 89 and 90. The lyrics 'One! Two! Three' are under the first three notes of measure 89, and 'How the dancers swirl round!' are under the notes of measure 90. There are triplet markings over the eighth notes in measures 89 and 90. The alto flute, bass clarinet, violin, and viola parts have whole rests in measure 88 and simple accompaniment in measures 89 and 90.

91

sop

a fl

b cl

vln

vc

Detailed description: This system contains measures 91, 92, 93, and 94. The soprano part has a whole note in measure 91 and rests in measures 92, 93, and 94. The alto flute and bass clarinet parts have eighth notes in measure 91 and rests in the following measures. The violin and viola parts have a continuous accompaniment of eighth notes throughout the system.

like glue his dead body holds me

94

sop

3 3 3 3

He is here in the room, in my arm his limp bo - dy hangs on the

a fl

b cl

vln

vc

97

sop

3 3 3

spin of the waltz we are dan - cing a swarm of blood - drops is hem-ming us

a fl

b cl

vln

vc

like glue his dead body holds me

100

sop

in! Round and round! One! Two! Three! And his sin is red

a fl

b cl

vln

vc

103

sop

like his tongue lol - ling warm.

a fl

b cl

vln

vc

*mf*

*mf*

*ff*

*mf*



like glue his dead body holds me

106

sop

a fl

b cl

vln

vc

109

sop

a fl

b cl

vln

vc

one! two! three!

and the drums are his knell. he is hea-vy, his

like glue his dead body holds me

112

sop

feet beat the floor as I drag him a - bout in the swell of the waltz.

a fl

b cl

vln

vc

115

sop

With a men - a - cing roar, the trum - pets crash in through the door.

a fl

b cl

vln

vc

like glue his dead body holds me

118

sop

one! two! three! clangs his fu -

a fl

b cl

vln

vc

121

sop

ner - al bell.

a fl

b cl

vln

vc

like glue his dead body holds me

124

sop One! Two! Three! in the cha - os of space rolls the

a fl

b cl

vln

vc

127

sop earth to the hi - de - ous glee of death! And so cramped is

a fl

b cl

vln

vc

*mp*

*mp*

like glue his dead body holds me

130

sop

this place, I sti - fle and pant. One! Two! Three! Round and

a fl

5 5 5 5 5 5

b cl

3 3 3

vln

MSP

f

vc

133

sop

round! God! 'Tis he throt - tles me! He has co - vered my mouth

a fl

5 5

ff

f

b cl

3 3

ff

f

vln

3

ff

f

vc

ff

f

for duration of sustained note:  
break for breath/bow change  
reattack with the same grace note  
the use of alternate fingerings/strings for each note is encouraged  
(pitch will drift around the ensemble as a result)

like glue his dead body holds me

136 3

sop

with his face!

a fl

b cl

vln

vc

139

sop

And his blood has

a fl

b cl

vln

vc

like glue his dead body holds me

141

sop

dripped in - to my heart! And my heart beats and

a fl

b cl

vln

vc

144

sop

la - bours. One! Two! Three! His dead limbs have coi - led ev - 'ry part of my

a fl

b cl

vln

vc

*mp*

*p*

like glue his dead body holds me

147

sop

bo - dy in ten - ta - cles. Through my ears the waltz jan - gles

a fl

b cl

vln

vc

150

sop

Like glue his dead bo - dy holds me a -

a fl

b cl

vln

vc



like glue his dead body holds me

153

sop thwart *pp* One! Two! Three!

a fl *breathy*

b cl

vln *MST*

vc *MST*

156

sop Give me air! Oh! My God!

a fl *breathy*

b cl

vln

vc

like glue his dead body holds me

159

sop

One! Two! Three! I am drow - ning in slime

a fl

b cl

vln

vc

162

sop

One! Two! Three! And his corpse like a clod,

a fl

b cl

vln

vc

air sound:  
breathe through mouthpiece  
finger rotated pitch

stem up = inhale  
stem down = exhale

like glue his dead body holds me

165

sop

3

3

beats me in - to a jel - ly The chime

a fl

b cl

vln

vc

168

sop

3

3

One! Two! Three! And his dead legs keep

a fl

b cl

vln

vc

air sound:  
breathe through mouthpiece  
finger notated pitch

stem up = inhale  
stem down = exhale

like glue his dead body holds me

171

sop

time.

a fl

b cl

vln

vc

Detailed description: This system contains measures 171, 172, and 173. The Soprano part begins with a whole rest in measure 171, followed by a half rest in measure 172. The Flute (a fl) and Bass Clarinet (b cl) parts have melodic lines with slurs and accents. The Violin (vln) and Viola (vc) parts have whole rests throughout the system.

174

sop

a fl

b cl

vln

vc

Detailed description: This system contains measures 174, 175, and 176. The Soprano part has a whole rest in measure 174 and a half rest in measure 175. The Flute (a fl) and Bass Clarinet (b cl) parts have melodic lines with slurs and accents. The Violin (vln) and Viola (vc) parts have whole rests throughout the system.

like glue his dead body holds me

177

sop

a fl

b cl

vln

vc

180

sop

a fl

b cl

vln

vc

Air! Give me air!

0

3

like glue his dead body holds me

183

sop

a fl

b cl

vln

vc

Air!

My

186

sop

a fl

b cl

vln

vc

God!

audible breath

stem up = inhale  
stem down = exhale