

“THE SOONER TUNER”



Official Newsletter, Oklahoma Chapter 731
The Piano Technicians Guild, Inc.
January '97

NEXT MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, January 14th
TIME: 9AM
LOCATION: Norman Cantrell's place

DIRECTIONS: From I-40 & I-44 go north to 23rd, exit east 1.3 mile to Villa, then south to 19th, then east to 2251 NW 19th, 405-525-7762

••• TECHNICAL •••

PIANO CLEANING AND SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS
CONCERNING THE HANTA VIRUS
by
Norman Cantrell, RPT

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LAST MEETING

Christmas Banquet at Harrigans was terrific. And afterwards, we all journeyed over to the Cantrell's home and shared in a variety of desserts prepared by the spouses.

Thank you...thank you! Yum...yum!!

Also during both of these times many unique stories and tales emerged to delight the minds of all who were in hearing distance.

Thank you for participating and making it happen!!!

MISCELLANEOUS

Two (2) used Pierce Plano Atlas, 9th Edition for sale. Asking \$11.00 each, contact Keith McGavern, 275-8600

TECH TIP

"Repairing Chipped Plastic Keytops"

by Ross E. Trawick, RPT, Oklahoma Chapter 731

In the past I have occasionally come across an article (usually in the "Tech Tips" section in the PT Journal), about repairing chipped Ivories, but have not seen much in the way of articles on repairing chips or burns in molded plastic keytops.

Recently, I had a fellow technician bring me two (2) keys from a spinet piano that had burn marks on them. This technician asked if I could assist him in providing a satisfactory repair, assuming that I would have some spare keytops to replace them with. This would probably be the first avenue most of us would take in making a repair, hoping the existing keytops had not discolored too much for a reasonable match in the repair.

Not only were they noticeably different in color from any spare molded keytops I could have used to replace them with, they were thicker than anything I had, both top and front. I had recently read an article in a "handyman" magazine about a man inquiring with the "Handy Tips" editor (similar to the technical editor of the PT Journal) about making repairs to a molded shower and tub unit that received damage to tools being dropped in the tub during repairs to the plumbing. The editor explained about a repair kit available that had "shading" colors to mix in with an epoxy type substance so as to attempt matching the color of the tub and shower unit.

I began looking for this same repair kit in hopes of trying it to see what kind of results I could get, but had no luck in finding this repair kit. However, I ran across an epoxy specially formulated for plastics called TEN-SET by Evercoat. It is formulated to work with plastic in a way many epoxies are not. It is a light tan color when cured, and stinks like you wouldn't believe!!

With my Dremel Tool using the sanding drum, I prepared the area for repair by lightly grinding out the burned area of the keytop (epoxy adheres to roughened surfaces much better than if the area is smooth.) I decided to try mixing some white "blending stain" powder from my furniture touch up kit to see if it would work with this stuff, and boy did it! It was a little hard to get it mixed up well at first, but I continued to work the two together until I got a smooth, creamy mixture.

(continued other side)

With a small paddle I scooped some out of the mixing cup and applied it to the keytop area to be repaired, over-filling it so I could work it down to the same level as the rest of the keytop surface. After the epoxy mixture cured (10-20 minutes) I started with a file, taking the excess filling down to almost level with the rest of the key surface. I then sanded the keytop by turning the key upside down on a flat solid surface, using 400 grit silicone carbide sandpaper to work on "smoothing down" and feathering in the filling.

The last step was to buff the scratches out with a buffing wheel. By the time I got it buffed out, you would have to look pretty close to see the repair! The color came out just right, the epoxy stayed hard during buffing, and everyone concerned was pleased with the results! Maybe this would make a good technical? See you at the next meeting.

(begins other side)

PIANOTECH (Internet) STUFF
" Reed Organs"

Date: Sat, 12 Oct 1996

...While it's true that it's very difficult to find anyone who tunes and services reed organs anymore and replacement parts are virtually unobtainable, the construction and mechanics of the reed organ are simple enough that a talent piano or player-piano tech could learn to repair and rebuild them on a do-it-yourself basis. The standard reference work on reed organ servicing, tuning and rebuilding is "Restoring and Collecting Antique Reed Organs" by Horton Presley. Published by the Vestel press, it's available in paper-back for about \$10. If you're the kind of tech that enjoys self-inflicted pain and suffering; if you entertain the idea of do-it-yourself root-canal work, then reed organ servicing and rebuilding may be for you. Best of all you won't have to worry that the income you derive from it will put you in a higher tax-bracket. Believe me, IT WON'T! ;)

Les Smith
lessmith@buffnet.net

PIANOTECH (Internet) STUFF
" Reaming tuning pin holes"

Date: Sun, 20 Oct 1996

... reaming is the way to go. Some have said that a drill works better, which I cannot imagine. A drill has a cutting leading edge and is not necessarily self centering (only two flutes instead of the minimum 3 needed for centering the leading end). A drill also must be turned during it's extraction from the hole in order to leave a smooth hole, and in doing so, continues to cut the walls, thus making the hole larger near the entrance than at the bottom. The cutting edges of a drill are much sharper in angle than a reamer, which leads the cutting edges into the wood, making the hole larger the more revolutions that you turn it. If you tilt a drill, it is very unforgiving-- its sharp cutting edge will remove a lot of material and result in an oblong hole...

Bill Baier
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PIANOTECH (Internet) STUFF
"MUTES & MUSIC"

Date: Wed, 06 Nov 1996

...I am very impressed with all the offered knowledge and the struggle for achieving the best possible tuning. I just can't help thinking about one of the Steinway grands at the conservatory I worked on today. I did some regulation and voicing on this instrument, a complete tuning was not really necessary because it had recently been tuned and it sounded good enough, just a few tones here and there.

After having done some voicing, I consulted the piano teacher about his personal taste and wishes. He started to play some heavenly music and afterwards gave me further instructions. What struck me at the moment, was that although the instrument had been pounded on already for a couple of days and self evident the tuning could not be 100%, the result of his music making was rich, sweet and quite satisfying. Then...I started to ask myself: are we not making too much of all these micro beats, partials and sounds. If the basic structure of a tuning is healthy and in balance and the instrument is beautiful, what more could you wish for? rich is rich...

And besides, when one listens to a piano recital, some of the finesse of the finest of fine tuning remains unnoticed because of 1. the acoustics of the hall, 2. the distance between the pianist and the audience and 3. the (usually) immediate reaction of the soundboard due to body heat, changing humidity and warmth of spotlights.

friendly greetings from:

André Corebeek
CONCERT PIANO SERVICE
Amsterdam, the Netherlands

1997 SCHEDULED MEETINGS

February	12th, 9am	Wednesday	(location undermined)
March	13th, 9am	Thursday	(location undermined)
April	22th, 9am	Tuesday	(location undermined)
May	14th, 9am	Wednesday	(location undermined)
June	12th, 9am	Thursday	(location undermined)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

1997 Greetings To All. I hope you were all good little tuners and Santa brought you exactly what you wanted. If anyone found a Steinway D in your stocking Christmas morning, let me know.

It is always fascinating to find areas of interest and hobbies that people share. I have been demonstrating (playing with) my Lionel trains to my children over the holidays. This is a fun and relaxing divergent from the rat race of the holidays.

I was just watching a news story about the rolling pin and brick throwing competition held in Stroud, Oklahoma. It seems they compete by actually throwing rolling pins and bricks. The competition is between the residents of Stroud, Oklahoma, Stroud, England, Stroud, Australia, and Stroud, Canada. It is probably a good thing they don't have piano throwing.

If you have any hobbies outside the realm of piano technology which you use for a diversion, it would be nice to share them with our group. As you look to 1997 just remember that all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.

Norman Cantrell, RPT

Recommended Reading

None

The "Kick" Zone

(closely related to after touch)

from

Keith McGavern, RPT

"A true friend is one who thinks you're a good egg,
even if you're slightly cracked."
(from a wall plaque at the Santa Fe Restaurant, Stratford, OK)

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"Perhaps the greatest wisdom is
the knowledge of one's ignorance"
(John Steinbeck)

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"Work makes work."
(Thomas Carlye sp?)

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If you find yourself in a hole,
the first thing to do is stop digging.
(from the book "Don't Squat with Yer Spurs On!")

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The person who says something cannot be done,
should never interrupt the one who is doing it.
(author unknown)