

The Sooner Tuner

Official Newsletter of the Oklahoma Chapter
of the Piano Technicians Guild, Inc.
February 2007 Edition

President's Message

Let's talk tuning hammers/levers! Regardless if you call it a hammer or a lever, it is our most important tool. In fact, many of us spend as much time with this tool in our hand as we do sleeping on our mattress.

There are many sizes and shapes of this productive piece of equipment. There are long ones, short ones, fat ones, skinny ones, extension hammers, impact hammers, hammers with a variety of exotic wood handles, not to mention the different angles of heads, ie; 6 degree, 15 degree, etc. Of course, if this isn't complicated enough, there is the question of preference of a number 2 tip, or a number 3 tip? I'm sure that there are as many opinions and preferences as there are tools being made.

Let's share these ideas at the next meeting. Prepare your sales pitch and bring your tuning hammer to the next meeting. {No sword fights will be tolerated!}

Bob

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This space at the bottom of the page is like a lot of my days. On the one hand, there is not enough room for anything really important but on the other hand it is a shame to let it go to waste with nothing at all.

Norm's Noncents

I recently received an e-mail from a relative with a short description of tools. I thought it would be fun to pass along.

1. **DRILL PRESS:** A tall upright machine useful for suddenly snatching flat metal bar stock out of your hands so that it smacks you in the chest and flings your beer across the room, splattering it against that freshly painted part you were drying.
2. **WIRE WHEEL:** Cleans paint off bolts and then throws them somewhere under the workbench with the speed of light. Also removes fingerprint whorls and hard-earned guitar calluses in about the time it takes you

to say, "SH**!!!"

3. ELECTRIC HAND DRILL: Normally used for spinning pop rivets in their holes until you die of old age
4. PLIERS: Used to round off hexagonal bolt heads.
5. HACKSAW: One of a family of cutting tools built on the Ouija board principle: It transforms human energy into a crooked, unpredictable motion, and the more you attempt to influence its course, the more dismal your future becomes.
6. VISE GRIP PLIERS: Used to round off bolt heads. If nothing else is available, they can also be used to transfer intense welding heat to the palm of your hand.
7. OXYACETYLENE TORCH: Used almost entirely for setting various flammable objects in your shop on fire. Also handy for igniting the grease inside a wheel hub you're trying to get the bearing race out of.
8. WHITWORTH SOCKETS: Once used for working on older British cars and motorcycles, they are now used mainly for impersonating that 9/16 or 1/2 socket you've been searching for the last 15 minutes.
9. HYDRAULIC FLOOR JACK: Used for lowering an automobile to the ground after you have installed your new disk brake pads, trapping the jack handle firmly under the bumper.
10. EIGHT-FOOT LONG DOUGLAS FIR 4X4: Used to attempt to lever an automobile upward off a hydraulic jack handle.
11. TWEEZERS: A tool for removing splinters of wood, especially Douglas fir.
12. TELEPHONE: Tool for calling your neighbor to see if he has another hydraulic floor jack.
13. SNAP-ON GASKET SCRAPER: Theoretically useful as a sandwich tool for spreading mayonnaise; used mainly for removing dog feces from your boots.
14. E-Z OUT BOLT AND STUD EXTRACTOR: A tool that snaps off in bolt holes and is ten times harder than any known drill bit.
15. TWO-TON HYDRAULIC ENGINE HOIST: A handy tool for testing the tensile strength of bolts and fuel lines you forgot to disconnect.
16. CRAFTSMAN 1/2 x 16-INCH SCREWDRIVER: A large motor mount prying tool that inexplicably has an accurately machined screwdriver tip on the end without the handle.
17. AVIATION METAL SNIPS: See hacksaw.
18. TROUBLE LIGHT: The home builder's own tanning booth. Sometimes called drop light, it is a good source of vitamin D, "the sunshine vitamin," which is not otherwise found under cars at night. Health benefits aside, its main purpose is to consume 40-watt light bulbs at about the same rate that 105-mm howitzer shells might be used during, say, the first few hours of the Battle of the Bulge. More often dark than light, its name is somewhat misleading.
19. PHILLIPS SCREWDRIVER: Normally used to stab the lids of old-style paper-and-tin oil cans and squirt oil on your shirt; can also be used, as the name implies, to round off the interiors of Phillips screw heads.
20. AIR COMPRESSOR: A machine that takes energy produced in a coal-burning power plant 200 miles away and transforms it into compressed air that travels by hose to a Pneumatic impact wrench that grips rusty bolts last tightened 70 years ago by someone at Ford, and rounds them off.
21. PRY BAR: A tool used to crumple the metal surrounding that clip or bracket you needed to remove in order to replace a 50 cent part.
22. HOSE CUTTER: A tool used to cut hoses 1/2 inch too short.
23. HAMMER: Originally employed as a weapon of war, the hammer now-a-days is used as a kind of divining rod to locate expensive parts not far from the object we are trying to hit.
24. MECHANIC'S KNIFE: Used to open and slice through the contents of cardboard cartons delivered to your front door; works particularly well on boxes containing upholstered items, chrome-plated metal, plastic parts and the other hand not holding the knife.

Pearls of wisdom from Keith McGavern

Lost Motion Eliminator

The true application of the lost motion eliminator device is actually quite ingenious and remarkably efficient

in its design purpose.

When the soft pedal (left) is depressed in a vertical piano, certain parts of the piano's action are lifted away from their customary home position to hopefully produce a softer tone. When this soft pedal is depressed, it introduces a gap or space from other action parts which creates what is called "lost motion", motion where nothing occurs of any value.

However, vertical pianos with the lost motion eliminator prevent this lost motion from coming into being by keeping the action parts concerned together when the soft pedal is depressed, thereby (drum roll)..."eliminating lost motion".

The lost motion eliminator is usually found on older quality uprights of a bygone era.

Meeting Notice

The February meeting of the Oklahoma Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild, Inc.
will be held at Oklahoma Christian University in the Music Building.

The date for the meeting is February 15th at 8:30 a.m.

The technical presentation will be by Bob Scheer on

Tuning Stability and the Tools to Get There.

Bring your Tuning Lever and compare notes.

Gary Bruce is also seeking input regarding the upcoming TSA Seminar.
We will be hosting this event in a few short months in October of this year.

February is the shortest month but has the most holidays!
Groundhog Day, President's Day, Martin Luther King Day, Valentines Day,
Chinese New Year and Mardi Gras