

Piano Talk

Information Fact Sheet.
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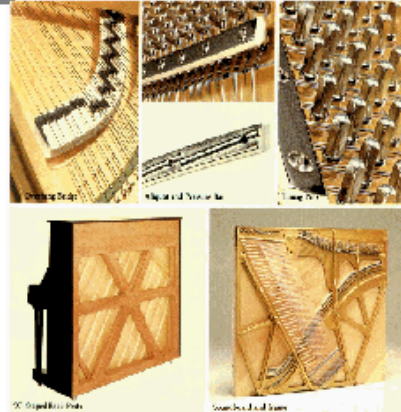
Why do pianos go out of tune?

Piano wires, even though made of steel, must vibrate in order to produce a tone through the soundboard, therefore these wires must be elastic. The soundboard of a piano (which is most often made of soft spruce wood) as well as the iron frame, will rise and fall because of expansion and contraction, due to effects of heat, cold and humidity. This push pull of the sounding board against these elastic strings is the main reason why pianos go out of tune overall. Specific notes go out of tune

because of the force or the blow of the hammer striking the strings with force, especially if the tuning pins tend to be a little loose, usually the result of low humidity levels.

What does the piano tuner do?

First your piano tuner will remove all top covers of the piano for clear access. After a small inspection overall, your piano tuner will start the tuning procedure by first, setting the pitch (done traditionally by a tuning fork) or by a pitch finder, depending on the piano tuner's skills. After setting the pitch, he will then tune one of the strings of each note within one octave (each key or note has 3 strings) then he will finally tune the rest of the piano to the pitch set.



Take a memorable quotation from this article or Question you may have and call us for further assistance.

When pianos should be tuned?

**For proper instrument care,
have your piano tuned at least
Every 12 months**

Secondary Article.

When should my piano be tuned?

To maintain the best sound quality possible and to lengthen the life of the piano, it is usually best for all pianos to be tuned...

Every 12 Months

If the piano is **NOT** tuned at least every 12 months, the pitch of the piano gradually falls to much and therefore will result in the piano needing to be tuned twice or more in order to raise the pitch to the correct level and stay there...

The correct pitch for pianos is, ...A 440... (correct Pitch)..

One important factor to note, is that some pianos that are not old, but in bad condition, may not be able to hold pitch, usually because of loose tuning pins or neglect in regular tuning.



Sostenuto Mechanism and Metal Action Rail



Hammer and Damper Alignment



Balanced Key



Soundboard



How do I maintain my Piano?....

For all pianos new or old, there are 3 easy steps to follow in order to maintain a piano.

1. Open the bottom door of your piano. (located under the keyboard) by lifting the little lever that secures the door closed, or on some pianos turn the 2 levers located under the keyboard on each side of the bottom door. Now sprinkle a small amount of Nepheline Flakes, over the floor of the piano (about a hand full). This will prevent moths from eating the expensive high quality felt in the piano to make young eeeoon for there young. **(For safety reasons)** it is recommended to use only Nepheline flakes **NOT** Moth balls due to young children seeing the moth balls as lollies...

2. If you live in a dry area, a good way to help prevent the tuning pins from loosening, as a result of low humidity levels, it is important to put a small container (say a 2 Lt. ice-cream container) inside, on the piano floor, and fill it full of cold water. This will help create humidity and maintain good moisture levels in the piano. But it is imperative that it is re-filled the minimum of every 3 months all year round.

3. Regular piano tuning annually.....

7 Steps to buying an old Piano...

Pianos do not last forever, as many people think they do.. Unfortunately, pianos continue to put out some kind of sound long after major repairs are necessary. The music produced by a piano is only as good as the piano itself and the condition of the piano depends on the condition of thousands of parts!.. To begin your evaluation of the piano you intend to buy,

1. Pull the piano from the wall to see if any glue joints of the backing frame and cabinet are coming apart.

2. If the backing frame is falling apart, decide whether if not the piano is really worth complete disassembly, major woodworking and re-gluing.

3. Is the cabinet acceptable as is?..

Re-Finishing a piano with a smooth piano finish is much more work than re-finishing other furniture. (Your piano technician can advise you where to go for piano re-polishing if this service is unavailable).

Re-finishing with Polyester NOT French polish will give you the best endurance & finish.

4. Are sections of the soundboard warped away from the ribs?..

Small cracks aren't important, but large ones are usually accompanied by loose sections of soundboard which make the piano sound like a bad loudspeaker. If the other parts of the piano are in good condition, turn your attention to the strings and the tuning pins...

5. Are the Bass strings reasonably clean, or are they caked with dirt and corrosion?....

6. Are the treble strings, pressure bar and tuning pins so rusty, the strings will break during tuning?...

A certain amount of tarnish isn't serious, but actual rust means the piano should be re-strung.

7. Are the tuning pins tight?...

(the only way to measure the tightness of the tuning pins can only be done by an experienced piano tuner).. but you can use a tuning fork or a good guitar tuner to check how close to pitch it is. The further away from pitch, the worse off the piano is..

In Summary..

If the piano has an unglued frame, unglued or cracked cabinet parts or veneer, a broken plate, rusty metal parts, large cracks in the soundboard and bridges, loose tuning pins, worn-out or moth eaten hammers and action parts., If it has warped keys, clicking action parts or keys which play more than one note at a time, consider looking for another piano or plan to get major repairs done with your local piano technician.

Your best option is to get your piano technician to carry out these inspections for you, to ensure that you are getting the piano you are paying for...

If you open the top lid of the piano and look inside, you should see all the little hammers and dampers, if you don't and you see a wooden beam placed over the hammers and dampers, this type of piano is called a over damper piano, which is the type NOT TO BUY, mainly because this type of piano have reached their used by date and don't or will only stay in tune for a very short time. (sometimes between 1 hr or if your lucky, up to 6 months).. (Most tuners won't tune them) P1PT/ P25PIANO



