

2018 Convention Classes  
Joe Goheen & Ed McMorrow  
September 17, 2018

**Adhesives – Duane McGuire**

CA Glue repairs

Use thick CA glue and accelerator to re-glue a jack onto a whippen.

PVCE and Titebond aren't shipped in the winter.

Put water in with CA glue to tighten tuning pins. However, if you put too much on, you can glue the coil to the plate.

If there is a plate bushing, drill a tiny hole in the back of the bushing to get behind and through.

Don't use Gorilla Glue for any piano work.

Fast cap ultra tape is very strong double-sided tape

Power point slides at [www.mcguirepiano.com/glue](http://www.mcguirepiano.com/glue)

**44 Mistakes – Isaac Sadigursky (one for each year he's been in business)**

- Use of chemicals (esp. volatile organics) consult with customer – may have allergies.
- Howard's Restore-a-Finish
- When regluing parts that need to line up, eg a lyre, use masking tape to mark the alignment
- Collapsible stool for damper work, eg. from home care supplies (sr. citizen in shower)
- Mail reminder cards on a Thursday. People generally call for appointments on Mondays and Tuesdays. If the card arrives on Saturday they are more likely to see it.
- Damper rod repair (plastic on end, Asian uprights) use dry wall anchor, 2" dry-wall screw, and bolt cutters to clip off head after insert. Compound wire cutters may also work.

**Tuning forum: 5 Masters (Steve Brady, Eric Shandel, Dan Levitan)**

- After a tuning, the piano will drift within 5 minutes.
- Test unisons using 5<sup>th</sup> partial intervals (3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>)
- Check tuning stability and centering by flexing the hammer up and down, in line with the string. This counteracts the tendency to move the hammer up and down.
- When turning pin, apply counter pressure up or down to minimize string movement in speaking length. Rock the lever up and down to move the string: pull it up vertically; when lowering the pitch, lift up on the lever. Once you think the pin is set, flex it up and down in a grand. Move it in decreasing amounts to center it. Dan first gets the pin in the right position, and then tunes the string.
- Compare different lengths of front duplex in string rendering; use different technique.
- Everyone use a slow pull instead of jerks as a primary hammer technique.

**Grand Prep in 2 to 4 hours – Yamaha Team**

- Primary Checks
  - Hammer alignment
  - Damper lever upstop rail not too low
  - Glides (two finger lift)

- If the glides are good, leave them
  - If they are too high, go through the front rail to pull out cardboard for after-touch. Don't make extra work for yourself.
- Shift – not too far
- Damper pedal stop
- Shanks off rests
- Key friction: use FR punchings on balance hole tool for consistent depth
- Regulation: 9 Steps
  - Let-off (2-3 mm)
  - White key dip
  - Hammer blow
  - Black key dip
  - Back checks
  - Rep springs
  - Jack position
  - Rep lever height
  - Drop

### **Treble Voicing – Eric Schandall**

The ear is most sensitive to this range, sometimes called the mother's voice.

Dags may need to be turned in to improve strike point, esp. if hammers have been filed.

Problem notes: try switching hammers, up to 4 notes away

Woody sound: thin shanks, use pocket knife for spoke shave. Some use a small belt sander.

Click: may be loose center pin in bird's eye, a loose screw, loose knuckle. A click on impact may be in the hammer, and a click on release may be in the whippen.

Brightness should increase from bass to treble in all dynamic ranges, esp. octaves 5 and 6

Noisy dampers? Include 3<sup>rd</sup> string in shift

Try new things. Sometimes we are limited by what we know.

### **Full Day Grand Service – Don Manino**

Use these steps for serious pianise, heavily used piano, no major parts replacement (not too old), sound structure, good sustain. For this situation, allow the time of two tunings – about a half day of service – for touch-up regulation and voicing.

Possible scope:

- Cleaning, string work (twisting bass strings, Roger's tool with pitch raise)
- Minor repairs: hammer shaping, voicing, partial regulation, tuning

Make sure the customer will notice the difference.

Devaluate piano – sting pluck test in treble, ask customer about problems, soft playing, control, check dampers, wear, timing.

Check key to front-rail friction, rub on side. Use 1721 McLube on key pins. Use the liquid 444 for shift and glides. Spray the key-frame outside because of the smell.

Plan your day: prioritize. "Plan your work and work your plan."

There are three levels of grand regulation:

3 days, take the action home "If you can't tell the difference, you don't have to pay me."

2 days in the piano vs. a half day. Find out what the customer really doesn't like: is it the regulation or the voicing? Find the weakest link. You might not want to do an all-day job if the

dampers are ringing. Point out “when I am done, you might hear a ringing that you may have never noticed before.”

### **Practical Voicing – Johnson**

Bright piano, heavily played. He doesn't have all day to voice; here are some time-savers.

Single-needle in shoulder, 6x in bass, 4 in treble with #6 needles

Sugar-coat with 8 needle tool, short needles, 10 to 15 strokes, hit pretty hard. If no result, use 4 needle tool, with slightly longer needles

Touch up with through-the-strings single-needle tool.

#### *Additional notes on tuning:*

David Anderson's tuning class emphasized wider 4ths, 1-1/2 to 2 bps, which yields pure 12ths.

A show of hands in the RCT class indicated most tuners are using a pure 12<sup>th</sup> temperament.

Tune unisons for stillness and sustain.

*Strive for excellence, not perfection.*

*Enjoy your work!*

### **Ed McMorrow**

The new up-coming generation of piano technicians is pretty sharp. They learn quickly and are intent on precision. They have the most extensive amount of knowledge and wisdom available at their fingertips of any generation, and our generation had more than the previous generation.

Going to a national convention is well worth attending.

There were 700-9—attendees at this most recent convention. Two entire hotels were booked.

First-time attendees get a discount.