Mini-Technicals

9/19/2011

Seattle PTG

Tools for Travelling

Roger Gable

Tools Necessary for Replacing a String

Hammer lifter
Becket closer
Dummy tuning pin
Wire cutters
Narrow screwdriver
String lifter
Pin winder
Needle-nose pliers
Mute
Tuning hammer
String lifter
String spacer
Micrometer

Tools in the Vehicle

One of everything
Belt sander
Drill
Vacuum & cleaning tools
Plastic-coated cleaning steel
Lacquer thinner, acetone, chemicals
Applicators
Alcohol & water for tight bushings (60% alcohol, 40% water; or 50/50)
Protek provides limited improvement, & adds volume to the bushing
Heat gun
Paint brush
Tape
Nut drivers
Japanese saw
Heavy-duty screwdrivers
Spare tuning hammer always in the car
Drop action collapsible bar
All sizes of screws
Dampp chaser
Felts: damper, muffler, name-board, leather
Soundboard clamps for gluing bridge
Bushings for artist bench
Pitch lock
Jiffy leads cut in half
Bridge pins
Misc. pedals
All sizes of tuning pins
Hinges for music racks, Wurlitzer music rack holders
Capstans
Sustain rod hangers

Knobs
Brass butts
Springs
Upright wooden parts
Spare light bulb for music lamps

Tools to Take into the House
Mutes & muting cloth
Glasses
Lid prop
Center pin kit
Business cards
Earplugs
Shoe horn
Screw drivers
Glue
Pliers
2 crescent wrenches
Wire cutters
Split-shank screwdriver
Tape measure
Vice grips
Stubby
Tuning hammer tips
Notepad
Lubricants
Allen wrench for legs & lids
Set of regulating tools
Spoon benders
Baldwin cheek-block hold-down plates
Magnet
Down-bearing gauge
Blow-distance gauge
Little ruler
Upright damper spoon on a handle for applying glue to butts
Cork inserter
Small off-set screwdriver
Jack holding tool
Drop screw
Brass rods for tapping strings
Down-weight weights
Dip gauge
Chisel
Razor blade
Drill bits
Voicing tools
Clamps
Voicing block
File
Pallet knife
Keys for various piano locks
Shank reducer
Bushing cauls
Pin vice
Rubber tubing
Small hammer

Scissors
Ways to fix stripped screws:
- Tiny pieces of leather for stripped screw holes
- Steel wool
- Metal cutting strips from waxed paper box
- Toothpicks

Elbow cutter
Geared shank hammer extractor
Curved key bushing pliers
Toothpick holder
Counter sink

Processing Credit Cards in the Field

Ginny Bear

Description:
The Square credit card reader works on iPhones and Androids.
There is no cost to get set up, and no monthly cost. Sign up online at http://www.squareup.com (be sure to use your business name so that gets printed on the receipt) and they send you the credit card reader for free. It takes a little practice so you get the speed and direction down, so you may want to do a practice transaction. Cost to use: 2.75% swiped, 3.5% plus 15 cents for keyed in. Example of swiped fee: $140 total, $3.85 fee, you net $136.15. Limits: if you do more than $1000 in any 7-day period, there is a 30-day delay on depositing the funds. You may be able to work out an arrangement with them directly if this is something you might be doing.

Cards: Visa, MC, Discover, and Amex

Receipts:
sent via e-mail or phone to the customer, and a link to the on-line receipt for you. The receipt includes the price, the item description, a photo (if you set up your account with one) and a map of where the transaction took place, and looks very professional.

Payment:
Your pay, less the fee, gets deposited into your checking account in about two days.

Tips:
- Square runs on Apple iOS devices running 4.0 and up, and Google Android devices running 2.1 and up. There is a list of devices that don't work on the website http://www.squareup.com under "What devices does Square work with?"
- A customer can select a tip percentage.
- Keep your login/password handy as you will need it when the app updates automatically. You don't want to promise the service and not be able to provide it.
- Refunds can be made within 60 days. Refunds must be full, not partial, refunds.
- The web site is pretty complete; you will probably find your questions and answers right there.

Center-Pinning
Scott Craven

Tools
Calipers/micrometer to decide on new pin size
Pin cases
Envelopes of extra pins
Pin pusher/center-pin punch
Flush-cutting nippers
Teflon bushings
Tapered & straight reamers & burnishers
Make a reamer with straightened piano wire with a point on the end & a section rolled over a file.
Long thin screwdriver for brass butt plates, between dampers, etc.
Spare grand shanks & flanges (5-7 swings; 4 swings will loosen)
For repetition levers, pin them tight & strengthen the repetition spring; because the spring is stronger the lever will move more smoothly.
Schaff's spring gauge
Gram gauge
Set of known weights for testing consistency
Drill bit for removing bushings
Teflon bushing inserter
Pin vice: use a pin one size larger as a final burnisher
Bushing cloth
Sheet of bushing cloth that is torn rather than cut
Tweezers
Knife or razor blade for trimming bushings
Glue a pin into the end of a wooden dowel

Misc. Tips

Hammer flanges should be firm, not wobbly
If you can push the pin more than half-way through the birds-eye with your fingers, the pin is too loose
Too large of a pin can split the wood
Multiply the size of the hole by pie to determine the size of the cloth for re-bushing the hole
Newly bushed old parts will get loose quickly, so go a little tighter
When the pin has to be exceptionally large, it would be better to re-bush the hole
To hold the bushing felt in, use Titebond or PVCE. Put a drop as pulling the cloth through, being careful not to let the glue soak through. Pull the cloth through and trip it off. Place a small pin in to hold the bushing as the glue is drying & before the felt is trimmed off.

Interesting Old Tools
Joan Smith

Guillotine felt cutter with a lever handle
Baldwin string lifter (like a compass)
Old key dip weights
Gauge clamp for plumbing fittings for measuring tuning pin sizes
Hale nine-needle voicing tool
Miniature can with variety of string sizes