

# The Low-Down on Spinets

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## Questions

Concerns, issues, problems, complaints, comments, compliments

- Why we like spinets
  - Easy to move
  - Fit under staircases, windows and small spaces
  - Less impending in apartments
  - Look cute
- Why we don't like spinets
  - Tinny sound, wide inharmonicity factor, poor tone quality
  - Difficult to access for repairs
  - Difficult to disassemble and reassemble
  - Short keys, light touch
  - Cheaply built
  - Flimsy legs, easy to break

## Exterior

Finish

Pedals

Casters

Back

Music racks

Legs

## Keys

broken

capstans

height & dip

grommets

Wurlitzer tabs

Fallboard mechanisms

Thin punchings

## Action

Types of stickers

- Wood
- Metal rods with grommets
- Pewter arms
- Plastic elbows
- Reinserting pins into a wood rail

Action removal

- Newspaper
- Telescoping rod
- Bungy cord & hooks
- Tape & string
- Removing with keys in vs. out

Regulation & adjustment

- Hammer rail

- Refelting the keybed
- Capstans (square, tall & narrow, far underneath, wooden buttons, metal hex screws, rocker arms)
- Key height & dip
- Let-off (tight angle, breaking screws, rail forks)
- Back-checks
- Dampers: spoons, wires, heads, clearance, angles, dry, extra long
- Pedals

#### Squeaks & clicks

- Locate the sound: up/down, left/right, front/back
- Identify the materials: wood/metal/felt
- List the possibilities: friction/rubbing/striking/tapping/slipping/rattling
- Start with the simple and basic checks. Think first before dismantling.
- Have the repair at hand before removing the problem
- Story: “too loud”