

Big-Time Tool Show and Swap

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2/20/2006

- Long flexible moldable magnet handle.
- Piano key striker with a handle and velcro hand strap and hammer felt rectangle on end.
- Thin rolls of chart graph white tape from art supply stores for traveling flanges.
- Bill Spurlock's
- Cloth booties to wear over your shoes when going into someone's shoe-free house. Boeing surplus boot socks.
- Compact action holder, made by Schaff.
- "Bushmaster" perfectly centers the felt and cuts it perfectly. Apply hot hide glue with a bamboo skewer. Place a rubber band around the caul to push it evenly into the mortice.
- Bunjy cord with hooks made from a coat hanger serves as a retainer for tying up drop actions. Bicycle inner tubes can be cut and tied to a workable length and can be wrapped around the entire action. Plastic-coated clothes line also works because it's firm enough to hold a shape. Lay a newspaper over the capstans so that the stickers don't catch on the keys.
- Long, light, round, very long narrow unfluted screwdriver from Crescent.
- Wicked magnet for \$6 from Harbor Freight. Long, flexible flashlight.
- Super solvent for removing super glues.
- Hardman bubble pack for \$70
- Multi-purpose metal gauge for adjustment measurements.
- Soft bag from Duluth Trading Co. for \$58.
- Folding reading glasses.
- Home-made tuning hammer: bicycle handlebar grip, handle off a sharpening steel, extension tips.
- Colored hammer shanks from toy section of the Dollar Store.
- 4-minute epoxy mini packets from ND Industries, Inc. (248) 288-0000.
- Airplane pilot cases make excellent tool cases.
- Leatherman multi-purpose tool is super high quality. The off-brands are significantly inferior.
- Needle handle with adjustable needles. Rotate the adjuster with the thumb to change the needle lengths. Pianotek has discontinued this model. Takes a 3mm Allen wrench, which is an odd size. Tacoma Screw carries these wrenches in a box of 100. Now Jergen's has a nice quality one with a nice handle.
- Mike Swenson from Calgary makes a nice single needle tool, which is basically a pin vice with a fancy handle. The needles can be stored in the other end of the handle.
- Good torch for burning hammer shanks from Radio Shack (#648120): butane torch that runs on a cigarette lighter to create a spark. This works well on grands. A longer one would work better on uprights. The flameless Wagner burners from Jensen don't last and cost a lot.
- Files. Carry an assortment of nail files in different grits. A nail polisher has a different grit on each side. Because this is such a fine polish, it works great for polishing ivories. KISS is a common brand. Sometimes these come in blocks. Go to Rite Aid, Walgreens, and WalMart in the nail section.
- Impact vice grip. Joe Garrett got the idea from a dent puller in an auto body shop, where you drill a little hole and pull out the dent. This is also like the impact coiling tool. Mike Swensen made a bigger one with a longer shaft and a bigger weight for lifting coils.
- For boring out hammer butts to put new shanks in, Jeanne made a jig. Determine the proper position for the butt, then lock it in place with a lever clamp ("Quick Clamp"), place it in the set position on the drill press and drill each to the same depth.
- Quick Clamps come in different positions, like top and side loading. Go to Wood Craft, Gestaco, or Hardwick's
- Joe Goss's needle case is made of wood, but because it is wood the lid might expand or contract and become too tight or too loose.
- 45 caliber shells fit perfectly over agraffes. This is useful for protecting agraffes during spaying the plate.
- Dowel with screw & hole for looping wire ends.