

Northwest Piano Service LLC

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Technician

Enjoy Playing Your Piano Again!



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Player or not to player. That is only part of the question! (July 11-14, 2018)

61st Annual Piano Technicians Guild Convention (Lancaster, PA)

1. The pneumatic player piano industry:

OVERVIEW:

970 player piano makes and makers

94 known player actions

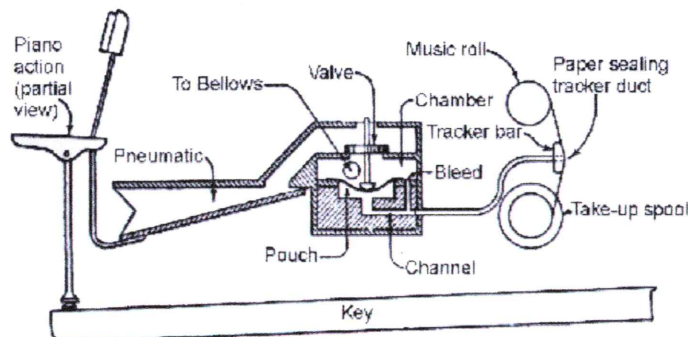
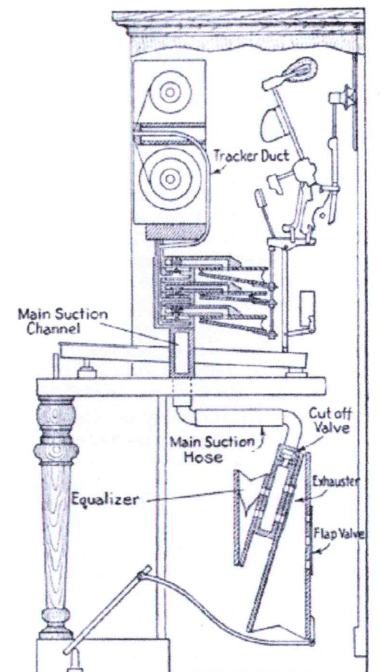
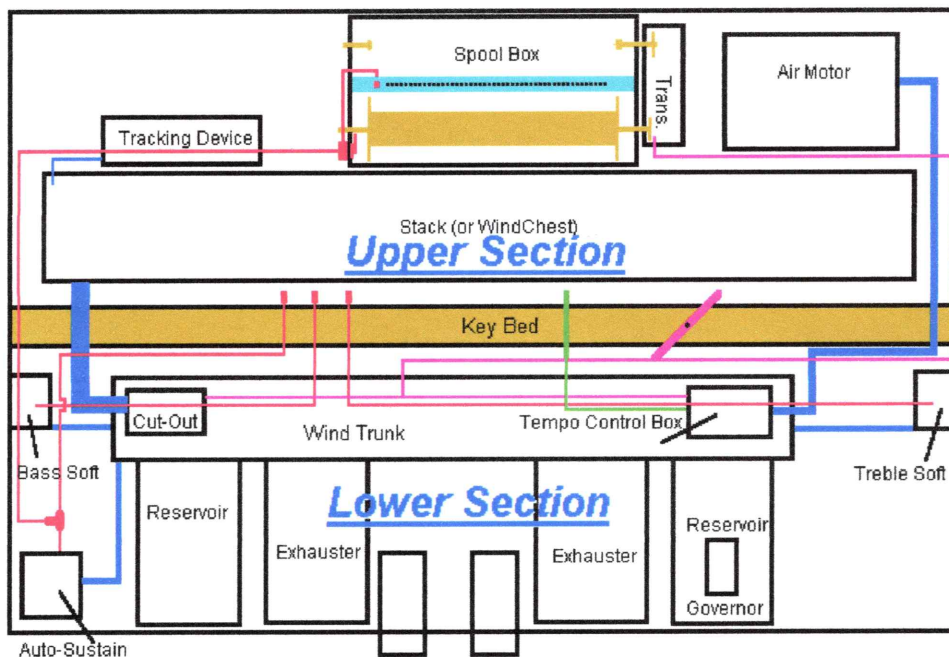
2 kinds of player categories: External movement to strike the keys (w. 1897 working player)

Internal player (oldest 1904 Melville Clark)

2. How does a pneumatic player piano function?

Principles of movement.... ex. spring held back needs to be released to give us it's energy

Atmospheric pressure (roughly 14.6959 lbs. per square inch) release of pressure from a vacuum.



This is a simple Pianola diagram that helps to visualize the valve/pouch/bleed chambers!

3. Self evaluate a personal level of mechanical skills to engage in player piano work.

Analyze schematics, technical manuals and willing to do the research...you'll be fine!

Life line: Have a couple of people who can mentor and answer questions

Denis Wilkinson (RPT), 503-246-3337 OR John Tuttle 732-840-8787 (Player guru)

Know your limits...Gee I wish I would learn what that means.

FLOW CHART

When you open up the piano to tune....and there is something non animal like....it might be a player mechanism.

RULE #1

ASK the client to show you how they use the player.

ALWAYS set up and run the player before working on the unit.*

*Use the foot pumps AKA Treadles to exhaust air NOT the Vacuum system.

Why? _____

RULE #2

CHECK the main tubes for supple-ness (inspect: soft, cracking, or petrified**).

**anything less than supple (I would NOT remove the stack and hoses to tune).

Comments: _____



BEGIN: Can the piano be tuned without removing any player components?

NO....

YES (Great! Now get your job done and tune)

CONSIDER: Is it easier to remove 2 hoses, maybe some long screws and whole stack?

NO...

YES (Great **Tune it up!**)

Can you disconnect parts of the:

Spool box ?

Transmission?

Air motor frame?

Tracking Regulator/Motor?



<OR> At least remember where all the parts go once they are off the piano?

YES (sweet! **Knock out a tuning!**)

NO... (Too bad. Now you can make real money tuning something else).

CONSIDER: if the instrument is an Orchestrion, Reproducer, has a set of wind pipes, chimes, bells, or anything in your way, it may take a substantial amount of time. These jobs can really be endless time.

4. Player Maintenance-Natural rubber tubing / Bellows cloth / Vinyl problems
Expression Issues with Player Rolls: _____

5. Salvage Wisdom- Help a player guy out.... Elbows, reducers, vacuum box with switch

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References:

John Tuttle (Brick, NJ) www.Player-Care.com (hosts most historical player info. on his website).

407 19th Ave.

Brick NJ 08724-2605

732-840-8787

Arthur Reblitz, Player Piano Servicing and Rebuilding (ISBN 0-911572-41-4)

Copyright 1985 Vestal Press, Inc.

Encyclopedia of Automatic Musical Instruments (ISBN 0-911572-08-2)

<http://www.qrsmusic.com/>

Davis L. Saul, The Model B Ampico Reproducing Piano (ISBN 0-911572-26-0)

Copyright 1982 The Vestal Press Ltd.

Historic Pianos.com (Logan, UT) great youtube videos!!

Orchestrion Builder's Manual and Pneumatics Handbook

Brougher Restorations, Craig Brougher

3500 S Claremont Ave.

Independence, MO 64052

Steve's Piano Service

Stevespianoservice.com

Keith and Barb Akins (managers)

2545 Roosevelt Rd# 107/#225

Marinette, WI 54143

715-803-4556 (Keith)

Denis Wilkinson-RPT

Portland 503-246-3337 (Valve design and builder)

Catalog: Player Piano Co., Inc. Wichita, KS (1983-85) Has the best layout of pictured player parts!

Favorite Parts:

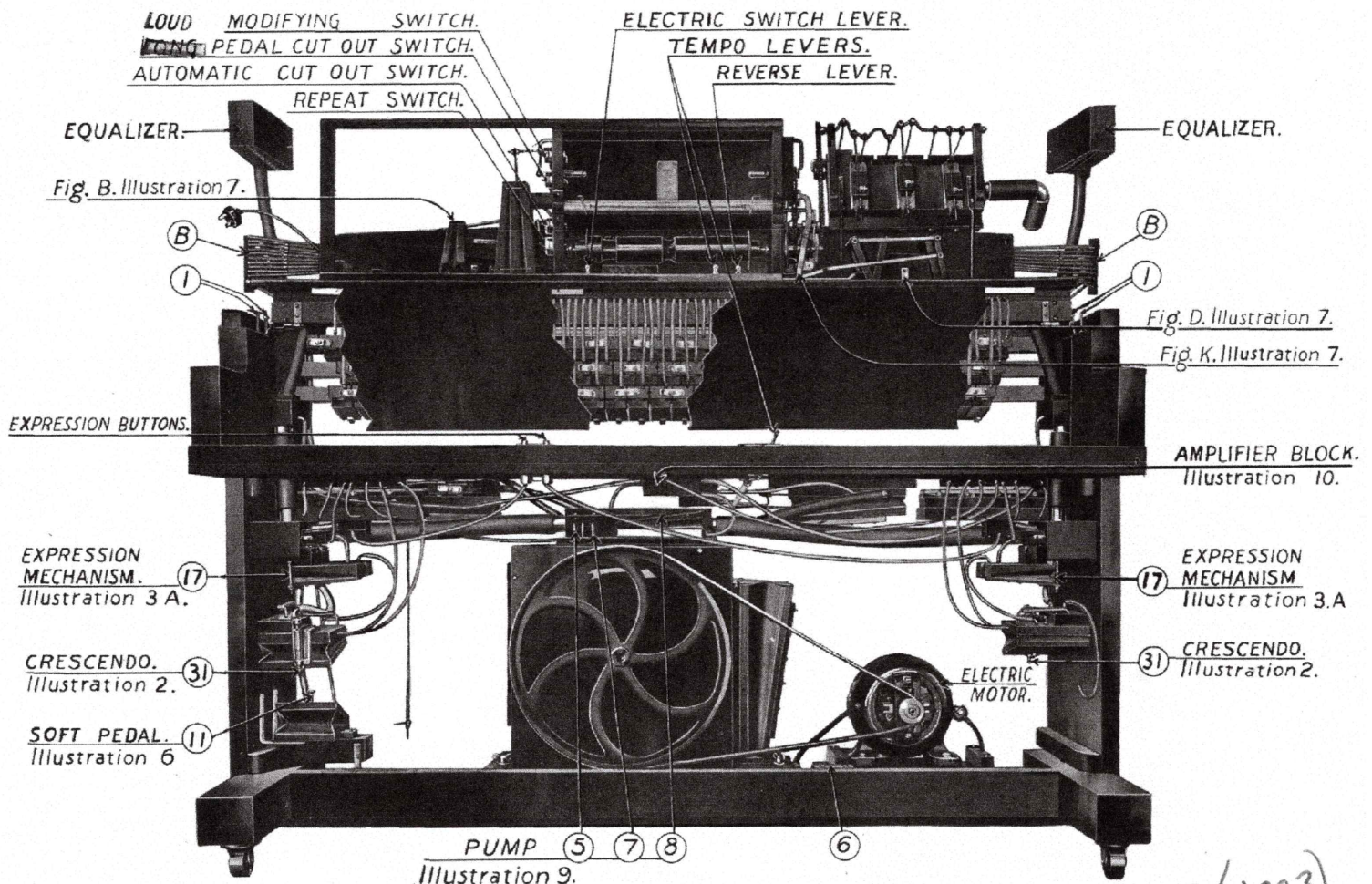
Brass and elbows (John, Craig, or Steve)

Valves (Schaff~use to be built by Denis Wilkinson)

Vacuum Pump (John Tuttle)

Hose supplies (Steve's Piano Service)

Heavy Bellows/ Pump cloth (John Tuttle)



FRONT ASSEMBLY ILLUSTRATION

Ampico A (1923)