

# Ideas for PTG Chapter Technicals

*Our thanks to Wim Bleeps, RPT for given his permission to post the following list of ideas he's compiled over the years from chapter newsletters. Check the Chapter Leaders community at [my.ptg.org](http://my.ptg.org) to find or post more ideas.*

## **ACTION WORK**

The Gospel of Key Bushings according to Bill Spurlock  
Presentation of the Unique Stanwood Action  
Basic action regulations  
Regulating the Renner action in the Baldwin SD10  
Key weighing  
Grand damper installation  
Hands on grand action regulation  
Hammer boring  
Restoration of action parts  
Keyboard weighting without friction  
Drilling & installing upright hammers  
Keybed and keyframe fitting and lubricating  
Replacing/repairing broken hammer shanks  
Friction in the grand piano  
Diagnosing piano problems  
Reliable regulations  
Trouble shooting  
Knuckle sizing and its effect on key weighting  
Hammer filing & shaping  
Repairing keys  
Working with the Steinway double flanges  
Repairing worn balance rail holes  
Key preparation & regulation  
Flange rebushing  
Vertical damper regulations  
Replacing corfam buckskin  
The Panic Stricken Regulation  
Factory method of key leveling  
Refelting the keyframe

## **BUSINESS**

Computers and Your Business  
Using the computer to organize, increase and improve productivity  
Computerizing your business  
What insurance do you need?  
Keeping records, servicing old and new customers  
Comparing the tuning business with other services  
Computers, the database and your business  
The cost of doing business  
How to survive and audit by the IRS  
Subcontract out the "bad" jobs.  
Promotion in Advertising, sure ways to sell yourself, your business, and the PTG

## **CONVENTION/SEMINAR UPDATES**

Everything you always wanted to know about the PTG Convention, but were afraid to ask, in 2 parts  
Convention Reports  
Seminar reports  
Discussions and actions on the Council proposals

## **SOUNDBOARDS, BRIDGES, AND REBUILDING**

Soundboard Removal  
The Hughes method of soundboard & bridge replacement  
Soundboards, what they do and how they work  
To be a rebuilder, or not to be  
Rescaling  
700 inches of soundboard shimming  
Bridge recapping  
Bridge replacing  
Using epoxy to set loose tuning pins  
Clamping and gluing vertical backs  
Troubleshooting soundboards by ear  
What does a bad soundboard sound like?  
Shop techniques for vertical rebuilding  
Cleaning the soundboard and strings  
Replacing agraffs

## **ESTIMATES & APPRAISALS**

Discussion about costing out jobs, appraisals and estimates  
Evaluating and estimating for grand piano rebuilding  
Evaluating the grand action for rebuilding

## **EXAMINATIONS**

Explaining the tuning and/or technical exams  
One Associates point of view in preparing for the exams

## **REFINISHING**

Bringing back old existing finishes.  
Practical woodworking for piano restorers  
Cabinet & key touch ups.

## **SELF IMPROVEMENT**

The Piano Technician's Image  
Improving technician and customer relations  
Stop Look & Listen: Green Light for Customer Service.  
Handling customer's problems.  
Relationships between tuners and dealers  
Appraising customers and their pianos  
Keeping yourself in tune  
Exploring the Code of Ethics  
Teacher relations  
The first appointment  
Your tool case and you and your first public image  
Top Ten Tips To Telephoning & Tying Tunings  
Together Tightly

## **STRINGS**

Analysis of bass strings  
String splicing  
Replacing strings in Verticals  
Splicing bass strings  
Fast & Pretty Stringing  
Why do strings break?

## **TOOLS**

Sharpening your tools  
"Jig-Fest," showing strange tools  
Specialty Tools, key to quality work  
Tips, Tricks & Gadgets  
TRAP WORKS  
Overhauling Pedal Lyres  
Lyres, they're all lyre's  
Grand pedals and dampers

## **TUNING & VOICING**

Tuning efficiency  
Explanation of the FAC88 note temperament tuning program  
Tuning the Mason & Hamlin Screw String  
Discussion on inharmonicity & partials  
Concert Preparation  
Pitch raising without using mutes  
Temperament tuning  
Voicing  
Temperament tuning - Divide & Conquer  
Better Bass tuning  
20 check points for pitch raising, a la Sid Stone  
The importance of tuning unisons  
Using the Sanders Accutuner for pitch raising  
Historical temperaments  
Using the impact hammer for tuning stability  
What is perfect pitch?

Voicing Isaac hammers  
Tuning the Institutional piano

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

Experiences of teaching piano technology in Mexico  
Discussion of Digital Keyboards  
Slide presentation of the Bently Piano Company  
Making case parts, trap works and tools yourself  
Showing a newly built harpsichord  
Installing damp chasers  
Constituents of the piano tone in relation to the case components and structural design  
The inner workings of harpsichords  
The Properties of Leather  
Demonstrating "HOT STUFF" Super glues.  
Introducing the New Mason & Hamlin Grands  
Preparing a new piano for sale  
Major changes to Eastern Europe Pianos and how to work with their warranties  
Identifying piano noises.  
Eliminating piano squeaks and noises  
Audiological risks to piano tuners  
Player pianos for the non-player technician  
Acoustic keyboard instruments other than the modern piano  
Basic harpsichord maintenance  
The use of hide glue in piano work  
Automatic musical instruments and how player rolls are made  
The status of acoustic pianos in today's music industry  
Field trip to a Harp Factory