Ideas for PTG Chapter Technicals

Our thanks to Wim Blees, RPT for giving 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 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

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