

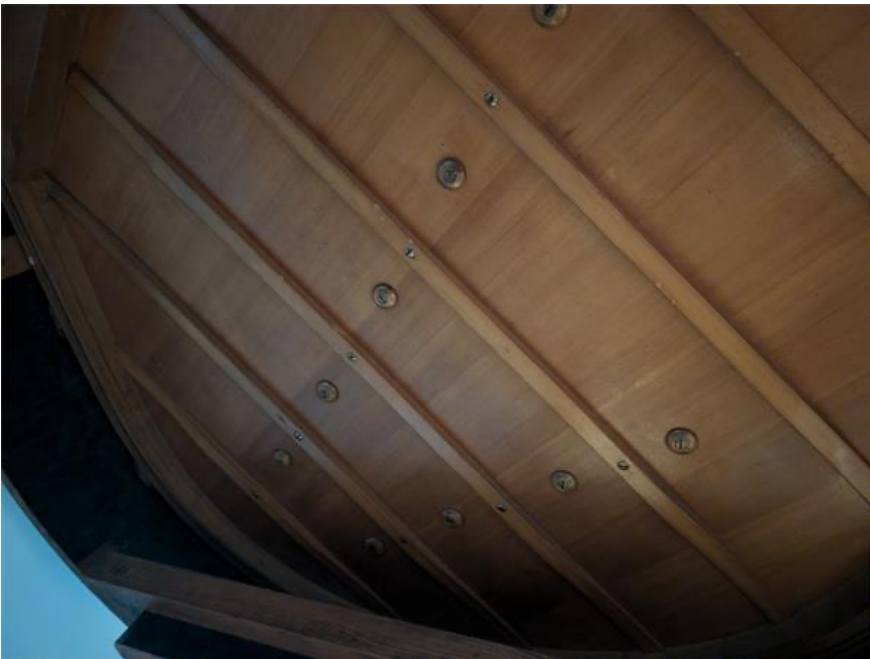


Bauer Piano

Notice the wood ribs glued to the top of the soundboard. The soundboard is located beneath the strings and the cast iron frame/plate.



Ribs are narrow strips of wood glued to the soundboard at roughly 90° to the grain of the wood in the soundboard. Ribs support the soundboard which is relatively thin and prone to cracking. Usually ribs are only glued to the underside (grands) or back (uprights) of piano soundboards. Here's a very unusual soundboard with ribs on the top and bottom of the board. While this arrangement would strengthen the board, would it adversely affect tone?



Most grand pianos only have ribs glued to the bottom of the soundboard as shown here.



Soundboard damage can be avoided

Keep the piano in a stable environment. Avoid direct sunlight and try to keep the room temperature and humidity fairly constant.

Photos from an email on the PTG Pianotech Community.