

TINE PIANO



OWNER MANUAL

INTRODUCTION

Decades ago, electric pianos presented musicians with many advantages over traditional acoustic pianos. In addition to being easily amplified and providing improved tuning stability, the electric piano was smaller and lighter, thereby offering portability. The electric alternative also created a new sound in music. Just as a traditional piano cannot truly be duplicated synthetically in terms of sound and feel, the electric piano has made its place in the musician's arsenal.

While the weight of these pianos was an enormous improvement over moving an acoustic piano, such weight is not a viable option for many of today's musicians. The Vintage Vibe Tine Piano has been thoroughly designed to provide classic tone and a naturally weighted feel, with superior ease of portability.

Thank you for your purchase of the Vintage Vibe Tine Piano.

Sincerely,
The Vintage Vibe Team

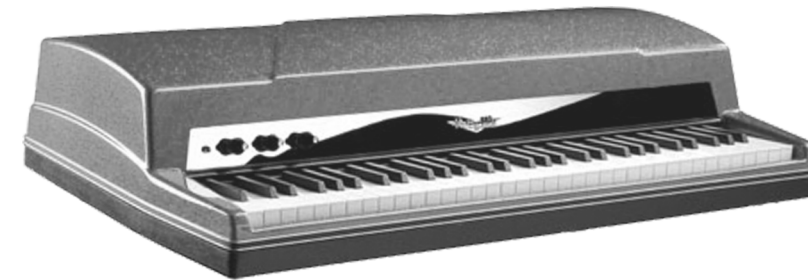
SPECIFICATIONS

Base.....Spruce/Poplar
 Keybed.....Linden
 Action Rail.....Hardrock Maple
 Hammers.....Cyclocac Flange, Hardwood Butt and Graduated Neoprene Tips
 Tone Source.....Asymmetrical Tuning Fork with Electromagnetic Pickups
 Harp.....Birch
 Electronics.....Passive Tone Controls or Optional Stereo-Tremolo Preamplifier
 Lid.....Fiberglass Construction with Extruded Aluminum Banding

*High Gloss Gel Coat Solid and Sparkle finishes available
 (64 Classic Series Lid Features ABS Plastic Construction)*



73 TINE MODEL
 HEIGHT: 7 7/8" (without legs)
 34 1/8" (with legs)
 WIDTH: 44 3/8"
 DEPTH: 21 5/8"
 WEIGHT: 60 lbs (without legs)
 KEY COMPASS: E8 - E80



64 TINE MODEL
 HEIGHT: 7 7/8" (without legs)
 34 1/8" (with legs)
 WIDTH: 37 5/8"
 DEPTH: 21 5/8"
 WEIGHT: 53 lbs (without legs)
 KEY COMPASS: A13 - C76



44 TINE MODEL
 HEIGHT: 7 7/8" (without legs)
 34 1/8" (with legs)
 WIDTH: 28 1/2"
 DEPTH: 21 5/8"
 WEIGHT: 37 lbs (without legs)
 KEY COMPASS: F21 - C64

*44 Bass Models available upon request
 KEY COMPASS: C4 - G46*

AFTERMARKET STAND

Any Platform, Z or X-Stand is suitable to support a Vintage Vibe Piano. When selecting a stand, care should be taken to ensure that it provides solid footing and does not interfere with access to the jack plate nor proper function of the sustain pedal.

LEGS

The optional chrome-plated steel legs provide a classic appearance and solidly support the piano at the approximate height of a conventional acoustic piano. To install, carefully lay the piano on its back and screw the legs clockwise into the leg flanges.

For pianos purchased without legs, an upgrade kit is available that includes legs, flanges, screws and installation instructions.

SUSTAIN PEDAL

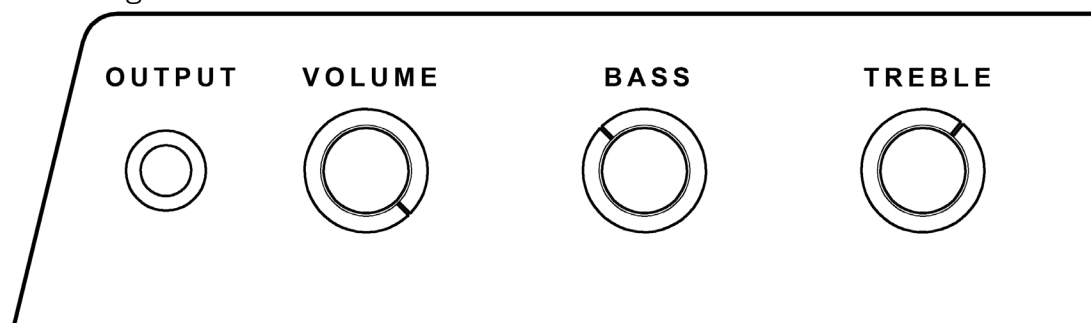
The optional sustain pedal is manufactured of lightweight plastic and aluminum. It features four easily adjustable feet that allow for solid placement on most any surface. The included sustain rod connects the pedal to the piano's internal sustain rail and its telescopic construction provides flexibility of placement and piano height.

To set up the sustain pedal, place it under the piano and insert the open end of the larger diameter rod over the sustain pedal's pin. Loosen the wing nut and extend the telescopic rod through the hole located on the bottom of the piano at the rear. The end of the rod should make contact with the sustain plunger and ensure the plunger contacts the sustain rail.

NOTE: When inserting the telescopic rod into the base of the piano, take care to achieve a light contact. Over-extending the rod into the insert hole will result in un-damped or partially damped notes upon release of the sustain pedal.

VINTAGE VIBE PASSIVE PIANO CONTROLS

Passive models include Volume, Bass and Treble controls and a 1/4" output jack for interface with the amplifier of your choosing.

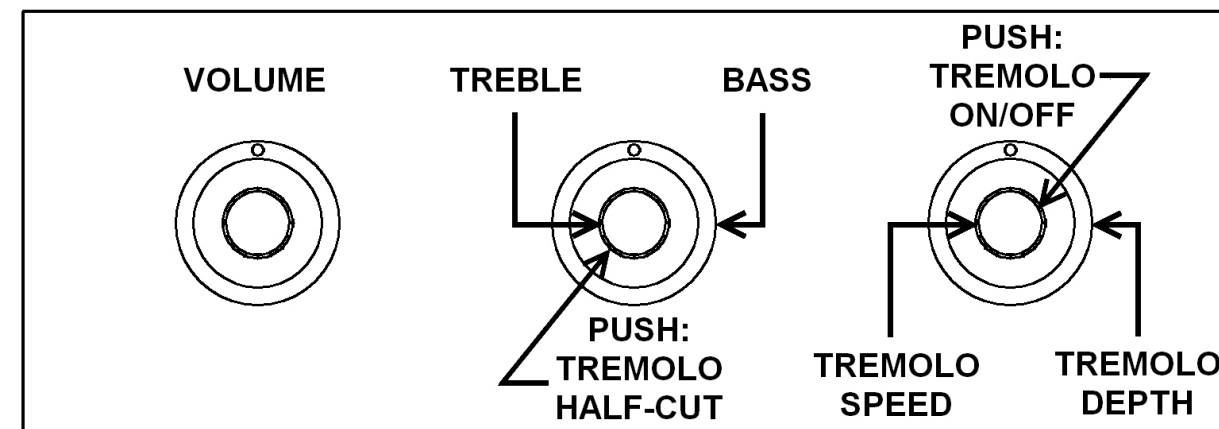


NOTE: Passive models are easily upgradable to house our active Stereo-Vibe preamplifier.

VINTAGE VIBE ACTIVE MODEL POWER REQUIREMENTS

The Active Stereo model requires 110 - 240 volts AC. The piano should only be plugged into a grounded power outlet of the required voltage and only done so with a grounded power cord. The power switch is located on the underside of the piano to the rear of the jack plate.

VINTAGE VIBE ACTIVE MODEL PRE-AMP CONTROLS



NOTE: The preamp is active and therefore the controls will only function when the piano is plugged into an appropriate AC power source and the power switch on the underside of the base is engaged.

STEREO VIBE: DIP SWITCH SETTINGS

CLASSIC MODE:

Identical to the tonality of the classic Fender Rhodes Peterson preamp known and revered by players the world over.

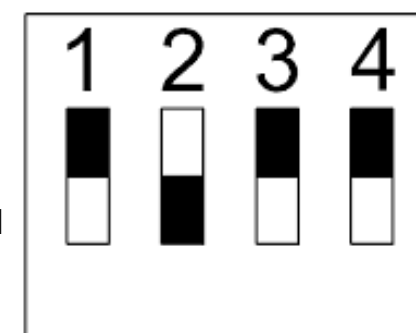
1 = DOWN
2 = UP
3 = DOWN
4 = DOWN



FET MODE:

Introduces a FET input stage which is characteristically tube-like due to its high impedance.

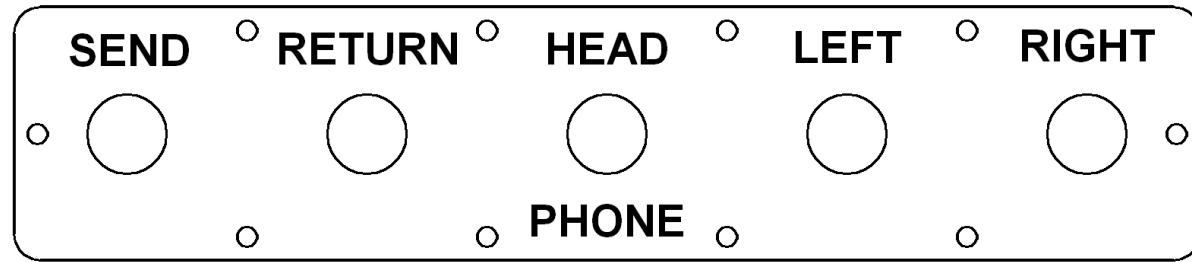
1 = UP
2 = DOWN
3 = UP
4 = UP



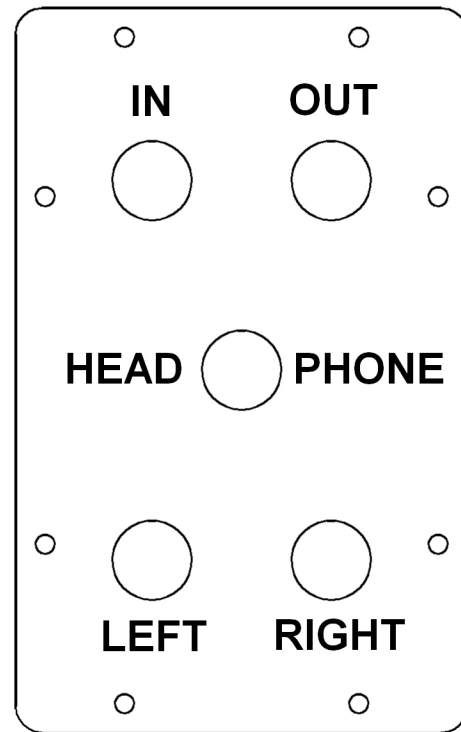
NOTE: Settings all the switches in the UP position will engage the FET input stage in parallel with Classic Mode. Some players may find this combination to be desirable. Experiment and see what setting you find to be the most appealing.

VINTAGE VIBE ACTIVE PIANO JACK PLATES

44 NOTE JACK PLATE



64 & 73 NOTE JACK PLATE



FX LOOP: IN/OUT

Provided for the insertion of EFFECTS UNITS. It is located before the preamplifier. Utilize standard 1/4" instrument cables to connect the FX LOOP "OUT / SEND" to the EFFECT'S INPUT and the FX LOOP "IN / RETURN" to the EFFECT'S OUTPUT.

The FX LOOP "OUT / SEND" may also be utilized to obtain a passive output signal directly from the piano harp.

NOTE: As the FX LOOP is before the preamplifier, the preamplifier controls will not function in this scenario.

HEADPHONE:

A pair of STEREO HEADPHONES may be plugged into this jack. The OUTPUT jacks will continue to output signal while headphones are connected.

OUTPUT: LEFT / RIGHT

Utilize standard 1/4" instrument cables to connect preamplifier OUTPUT(S) to the amplifier(s) of your choice. "For true stereo tremolo, either connect each of the OUTPUTS to separate amplifiers

or both to one stereo amplifier. For monaural use, connection to OUTPUT LEFT is recommended, but either jack is functional.

The OUTPUTS may also be connected directly to a mixing console or PA system."

VOLUME & TONE

The Vintage Vibe Piano is carefully voiced in our shop for even timbre and volume across the key compass. Shipping, atmospheric conditions, amplification methods, and personal tastes may necessitate additional voicing of your piano upon delivery.

The volume and tone of every note in your Vintage Vibe Piano are individually adjustable.

Volume is adjusted by changing the pickup's horizontal distance from the tine.

1. Loosen the screw securing the pickup to the harp.

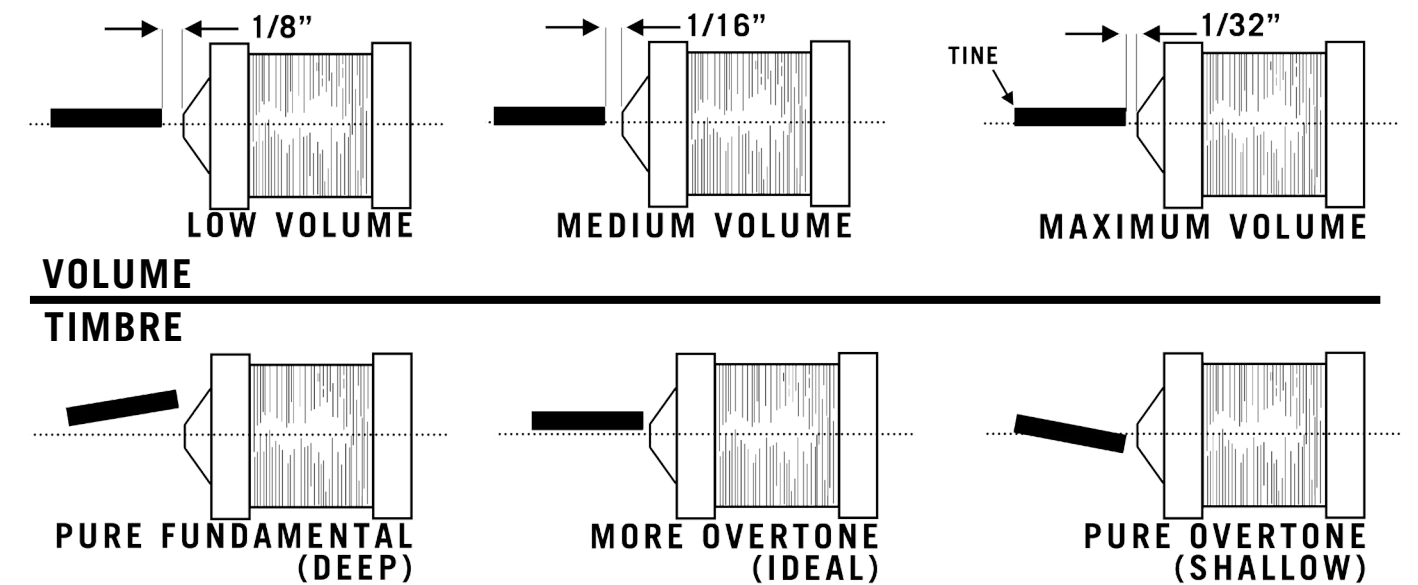
2. To increase volume: Slide the pickup toward the tine.
To decrease volume: Slide the pickup away from the tine.

3. Tighten the screw securing the pickup to the harp in the desired location.

Tone is adjusted by changing the pickup's vertical distance from the tine.

1. Adjust the tone bar's escapement screw (the one closest to the keys) to provide a 3/8" gap between the top of the harp and the bottom of the tone bar.
2. Adjust the tone bar's tone adjustment screw (the one closest to the tine) to achieve the desired tonality.

Counterclockwise adjustment will raise the end of the tine and produce a strong fundamental tone. Clockwise adjustment will lower the end of the tine and introduce overtone.



AMPLIFICATION

The Vintage Vibe Piano is voiced for a strong fundamental tone under a light touch, with overtones present upon heavier playing. These characteristics may be more pronounced by a tube amplifier as opposed to a solid state model. The technicians at Vintage Vibe prefer and voice all pianos with tube amplification and recommend the Fender Hot Rod series amplifiers. However, as each player has individual tastes, it is recommended to try your piano through a variety of amplifiers to arrive at your desired tone.

NOTE: To avoid ground loops between an Active Model piano and an amplifier, always try and plug both into the same outlet.

TUNING

The Vintage Vibe Piano will rarely require tuning. When it becomes necessary to tune a note:

1. Remove the three screws found under the front lip of the piano that secure the lid to the base.

NOTE: Do not use a power drill as this may strip the screws.

2. Lift the lid upward and remove it from the base. To replace lid, Place the lid back onto the base of the piano. Align the breakaway hinges on the rear of the lid to those on the base. Carefully lower the front of the lid and be sure no wires or cables are pinched between the lid and base. Ensure the lid is seated properly behind the name rail (it may be necessary to pull the name rail forward to allow the lid to be lowered properly).

For Single Note / Spot Tuning:

3. Strike the key in question and utilize the tuning tool (it fits easily in-between the tone bars and provides access to the springs) to slide the spring forward or backward along the tine in order to achieve proper pitch.

To raise the pitch: Slide the spring toward the keys.

To lower the pitch: Slide the spring away from the keys.

For Extensive / Full Piano Tuning:

4. Remove the screws securing the harp to the harp support. There are two on the left side of the harp and one on the right side.

5. Lift and raise the harp so that it is standing vertically and seated on the harp supports. (Fig. 1)

NOTE: It is advisable to hold the harp with one hand during the tuning process in order to prevent mishaps.

6. Pluck the tine by hand and utilize the tuning tool or your fingers (Fig. 2), to move the spring forward or backward along the tine in order to achieve proper pitch.

When tuning is completed:

1. If the harp has been raised, lower it and reinstall the screws to secure it to the harp supports.

2. Place the lid back onto the base of the piano.

3. Ensure that the three screw holes under the front lip of the piano's base line up with the corresponding holes in the lid. By shifting the lid slightly to the left or right you can ensure you are on center.

4. By hand, install the three screws securing the lid to the base and then tighten with a hand held screwdriver.

NOTE: Do not cross-thread screws.



FIGURE 1

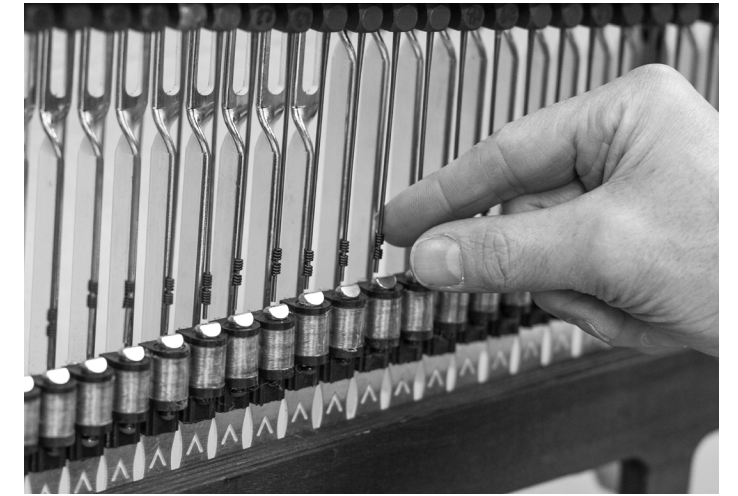


FIGURE 2

TINE REPLACEMENT

Vintage Vibe tines are swaged from the finest quality of steel and should last indefinitely under normal use. However, continuous heavy playing can stress the tines past their elastic limit and may eventually cause breakage. In the event a tine needs to be replaced, it can be changed quickly and easily.

**If you purchased a pre-cut replacement tine, skip to 5.*

1. To ensure the proper length of the replacement tine, hold it against the needed tine number on the cutting chart and mark the length with a marker.
2. With the tine cutting tool or a strong pair of wire cutters cut the tine along the marked line.
3. File the cut edge of the tine flat in order to ensure proper voicing.
4. Slide the included tuning spring onto the tine (using a pair of pliers may help relieve the crimp in the tuning spring.)
5. Use a 5/16" socket or nut driver to loosen the tone generator mounting screw and remove the original generator block and tine from the tone bar.
6. Mount the replacement generator block and tine to the tone bar with the screw removed from the original. Ensure that the screw is tight and that the tine is in-line with the tone bar.
7. Slide the tuning spring forward and back to achieve proper pitch. Volume and tone adjustments may be needed to voice the new tine to the rest of the piano.

NOTE: It is advisable to locate and remove the broken end of the tine from the piano to ensure it does not short the pickups or interfere with any action components.

TROUBLESHOOTING

ELECTRONICS

If the piano is not producing any sound check that it is properly plugged into an appropriate outlet, ensure that the grounded cable is not defective, and with the piano unplugged from an outlet, check the piano's internal line fuse for a fault.

If the piano has power, but isn't producing sound, plug a 1/4" cable from the OUT (Send) JACK to your amplifier. If the piano can be heard through the amplifier, there may be an electronics issue or faulty connection. Check that any 1/4" cables being plugged into the piano are functional and properly inserted. Remove any effects pedals from the signal chain to ensure they are not at fault. Check that the RCA cable connecting the harp to the jackboard (Active Model) or name rail (Passive Model) is firmly seated in the RCA jack. Check that the harp is not at fault by plugging a 1/4" cable with RCA adapter between the harp and an amplifier. If the piano can be heard through the amplifier, the harp is not the issue.

STICKING KEYS

If a key becomes sluggish or remains in a depressed position, one or more of the key bushings may have swelled due to changing atmospheric conditions. First, check for left to right movement of the offending key. A very slight amount of side-to-side movement should be present. If the front of the key feels tight, rock the key back and forth over the key pin to free it.

If the key still sticks, the pin hole or balance rail bushings may be at fault, or the front key bushing may need further spreading. Disconnect the piano from AC and all amplification. Remove the lid. On active models, disconnect all jacks connecting the pre-amp to the jack plate. Remove two screws to unfasten the name rail assembly and lift it out of the piano.

Lift the offending key out of the piano. Use a wedge such as a flat head screwdriver to spread the key bushings located under the key front, and on top of the key at the balance point. Do not twist the wedge, as splitting of the key may result. Use an awl to slightly spread the balance rail pin hole on the underside of the key. Lift the hammer assembly to replace the key in the piano.

A key is properly eased when it falls to the depressed position upon lifting the hammer upwards.

SOME NOTES SUSTAIN, EVEN WITH SUSTAIN PEDAL RELEASED

See Sustain Pedal Installation. If problem persists with Sustain Pedal removed:

Remove piano lid. With Sustain Bar Arm raised by hand (thus disengaging dampers from tines), check that Sustain Plunger moves freely through the Nylon Bushing. It may be necessary to loosen one of the two Strap Screws slightly to ensure proper bind-free movement of the Plunger (Fig. 3)

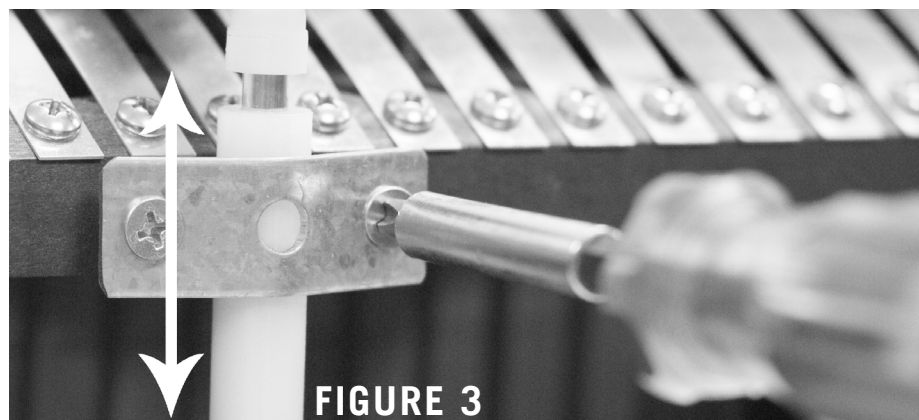


FIGURE 3

If some notes still sustain, it may be necessary to re-adjust the damper arm of the offending notes. First, check that all action components (key, hammer, and damper arm) are returning to a proper "at rest" position upon key release. Remove the three screws that fasten the harp to the support blocks and lift the harp to the upright position. The damper arm is adjusted by slightly bending the arm just ahead of the bridle strap (Fig. 4). If the damper displays insufficient tension to damp the note, or excess slack in the bridle strap, remove the damper arm from the action rail and add a slight reverse bend to the arm (Fig. 5).

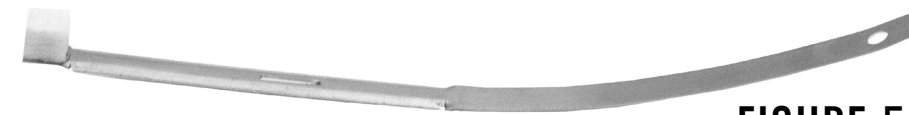


FIGURE 5

SUSTAIN PEDAL MAKES "NOISE"

It must first be understood that depressing the Sustain Pedal on an electro-mechanical instrument will generate some amount of noise. In this case, a sympathetic vibration is produced as all of the dampers are suddenly removed from the tines. If additional noises are encountered...

1. Check that both Sustain Bar Hinge Pins are correctly seated in their Plastic Bushings located in the Harp Supports.
2. Check that all Hinge Pin Mounting Screws are properly tightened.
3. Check that all Bridle Straps appear straight and tight.

NOTE: On Seventy-Three note models, it may be necessary to periodically check the relation of the Damper Bar and the Center Pin. At rest, the Center Pin should make solid contact with the Damper Bar WITHOUT pushing any of the damper arms down. To check Center Pin tension, unscrew the three Harp Mounting Screws and raise the Harp.

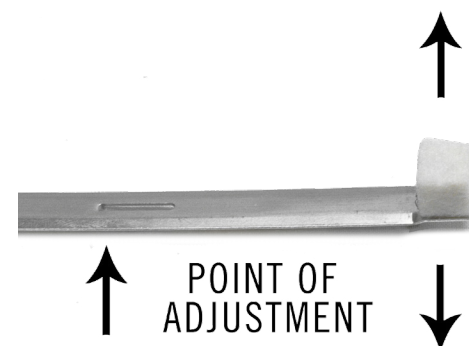
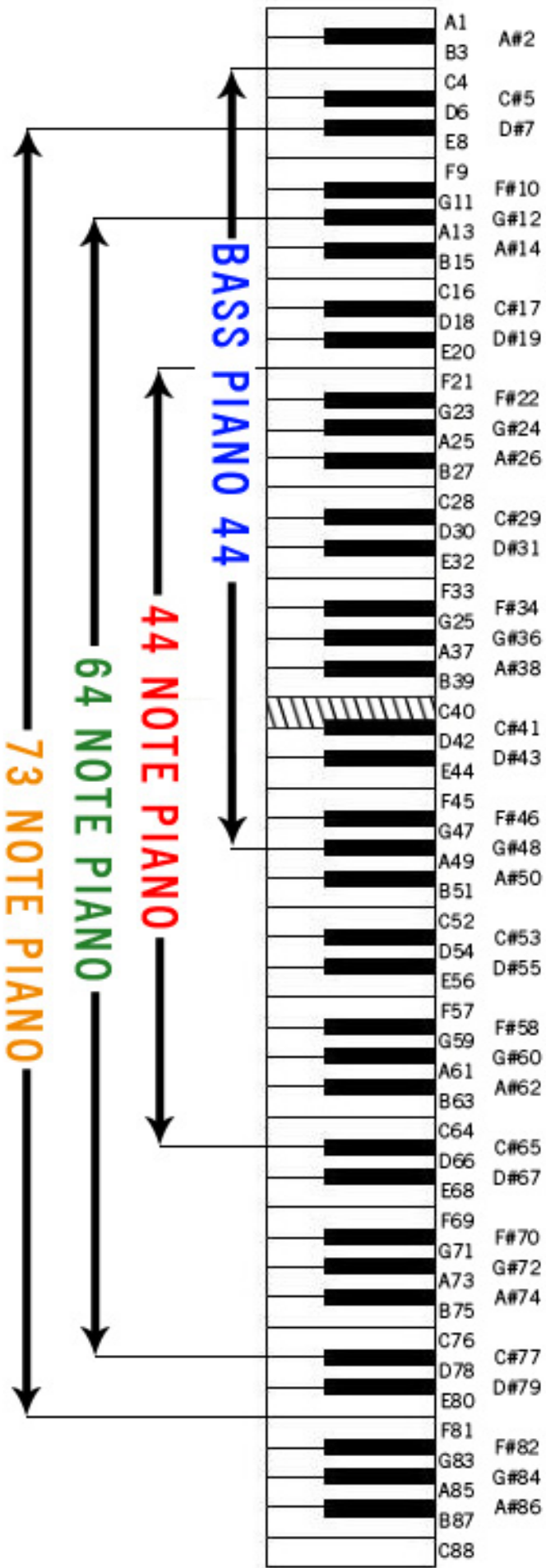


FIGURE 4

Vintage Vibe Piano Compass Chart



44 NOTE BASS PIANO	C4 - G46
44 NOTE PIANO	F21 - C64
64 NOTE PIANO	A13 - C76
73 NOTE PIANO	E8 - E80