

# The Piano Owner's Heads-Up Guide to Important Piano Maintenance

## Focus On: Installing new Pinblock Panels in an Upright



Information provided courtesy of:  
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For achieving long-term tuning stability in a vintage instrument, the best option is to router out the old pinfields in the original pinblock and install new, custom fitted pinblock panels. Once these panels are drilled for new pins, factory size (# 2) pins may be installed.

This work must be done with the pins, strings and cast iron plate out of the piano - typically at the same time that soundboard repairs are being made. A router and jig are used to rout out cavities in the old pinblock (above photo). Then, new panels of pinblock material are cut from high-quality hardrock maple pinblock stock. These panels are marked for the position of the pins, and drilled on the drill press (top photo, next column)



Once the panels have been drilled for size #2 pins, they are installed in the routed out sections and glued in place. At that time the cast iron plate is positioned back in place and bolted down (photo below).

The advantage of installing new pinblock material is that a high torque will be achieved with a pinblock which will last for decades. Alternative methods (oversize pins in the old pinblock or the application of liquid pin tightener) may solve the problem of loose pins for the time being, but are much more likely to be short term solutions.



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