



*Photo 24: Individual parts are readied for staining.*



*Photo 25: Damage to case needs repair. Here Dave works on fitting a veneer patch for a damaged area. The underlayment and veneer will be glued in place with hot animal hide glue, then sanded out. If done right, this repair is virtually invisible once finished.*



*Photo 26: Lacquer stick is used here to fill in a gouge in the veneer. A darker shade than the raw wood is necessary, since the lacquer stick is not affected by stain. The repair should match the finished color of the wood, not the color of the unfinished wood.*



*Photo 27: The trick with lacquer stick work is careful slow hand sanding with a fine grit (150 followed by 220). Sanding that is too aggressive will heat the heat and begin to melt the lacquer stick material. Again, this repair will be nearly invisible once the stain is applied.*



*Photo 28: Oil base Minwax mahogany stain is applied to the case and all the parts. This is Dave's favorite step – seeing the transformation as the wood takes the color.*



*Photo 29: The repaired area now blends in with the rest of the veneer. After the top coats of polyurethane are applied, it will be less noticeable yet.*



*Photo 30: Minwax satin polyurethane is now brushed on to each individual case part. Three coats are applied, with the first and second coat scuff sanded with 600 grit sandpaper to improve adhesion. The final coat is lightly sanded with successively finer grits, finishing up with 1200 grit paper.*



*Photo 31: After being sanded, the final coat is then buffed out with 0000 steel wool. Basically, the glare is scrubbed off, leaving an even satin finish, ready for polishing.*



*Photo 32: The final step in finishing is an application of deluxing compound. This is somewhat like a paste wax, but is a harder finish, less prone to smearing than paste wax is.*



*Photo 33: The compound is allowed to dry for a few minutes, then buffed out with a soft rag. All trace of the steel wooling disappears with this final step.*



*Photo 34: The end result – a glass-like finish, cool and completely smooth to the touch.*



*Photo 35: The workmanship and pride of the piano makers of times past is seen in this type of simple detail.*

Next up – Once last minute case work details (applying decal, felting pedal notches, etc.) are completed, the case will be ready for reassembly, and attention will be turned to the keys and the action which are both due for work.