



*Photo 1: Our new project arrives at the shop – a Washburn upright – a great family piano.*



*Photo 2: Decal reveals city of origin – Chicago built a lot of great pianos back in the day.*



*Photo 3: The intricate leafwork is in reasonably good condition with just a few missing pieces which will need to be duplicated. .*



*Photo 4: Original keytops will be removed and saved, with new high quality German-made tops used as replacements.*





*Photo 5: The first step is to disassemble the case with all removable parts stored on a parts trolley. This makes the refinishing process much more efficient.*



*Photo 6: The action is also removed from the case and placed on a bench for servicing.*



*Photo 7: Dave tries (to no avail) to remove the arms from the case. Sometime they come off, sometimes they don't – it's always worth a try.*



*Photo 8: The case is now down to the bare essentials.*





*Photo 9: Dave now lets off the tension from all the strings in preparation for removing them.*



*Photo 10: The bass strings are removed first.*



Photo 11: The bass strings are bundled together and sent off to Schaff Piano Supply to be duplicated. The size and length of strings differ from piano to piano, making exact duplication necessary.



Photo 12: The piano without strings. The last part left to remove is the cast iron plate. This is necessary in order to repair and refinish the soundboard.





*Photo 13: Dave removes all bolts and nuts holding the plate to the piano.*



*Photo 14: The plate is attached to our hoist. Canvas straps instead of chains lessen the chance of damage to the finish of the plate.*



*Photo 15: Liftoff.*

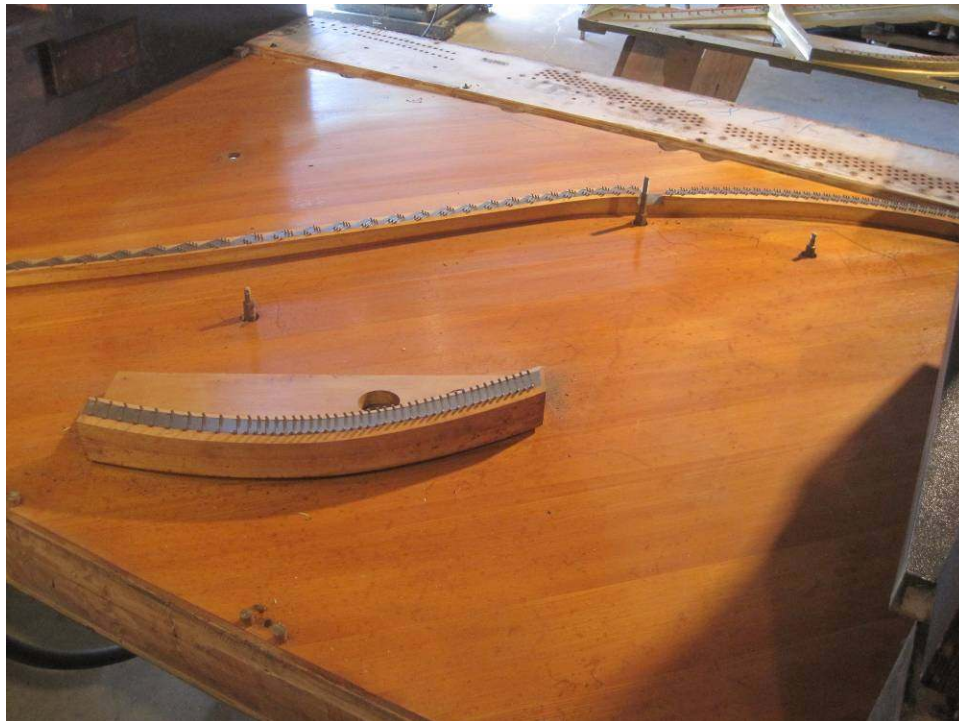


*Photo 16: The plate will be cleaned and stored until work on the soundboard and bridges has been completed.*





*Photo 17: The pinblock is in excellent condition. No sign of chemical treatment that would make repinning less effective.*



*Photo 18: The soundboard and bridges also are very good. One visible crack (behind the treble bridge) needs shimming, and others may open up when we dry the soundboard out, but overall it looks very good.*



*Photo 19: Dave temporarily removes the keys from the keyframe to attend to it.*



*Photo 20: All the old felt is removed and replaced with new. The next step for the keys will be to remove the old ivory and replace the keytops, but that will have to wait for awhile.*





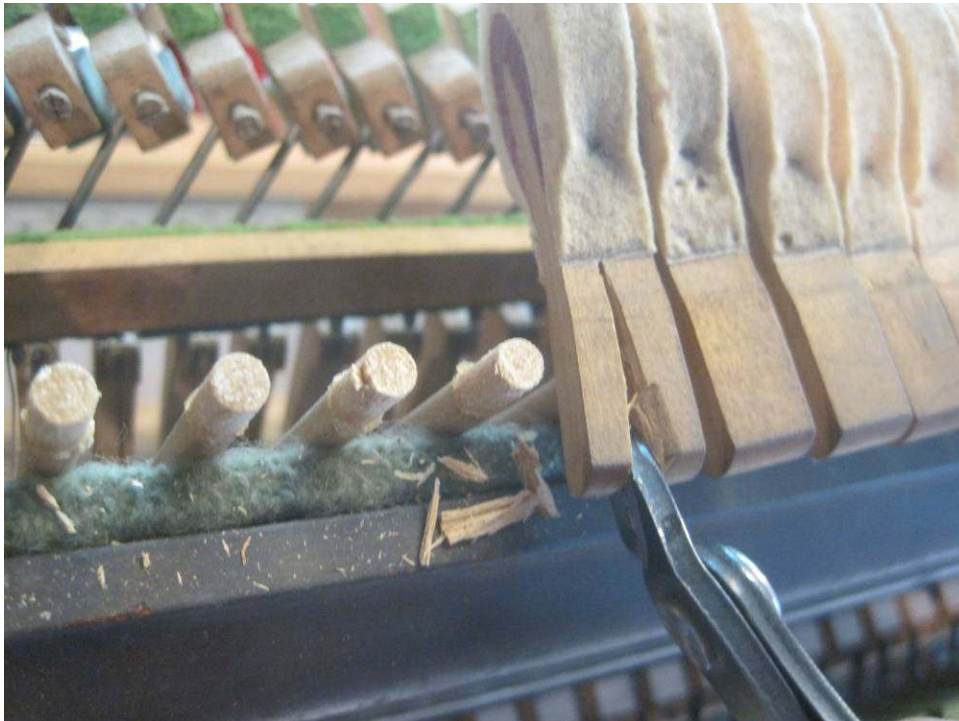
*Photo 21: I turn my attention to the action on the bench. A number of things need to be done to it, starting with cleaning up the century-worth of dust coating everything.*



*Photo 22: Replacing the hammers will be my first order of business. Like the bass strings, the hammers vary from piano to piano, and must be duplicated.*

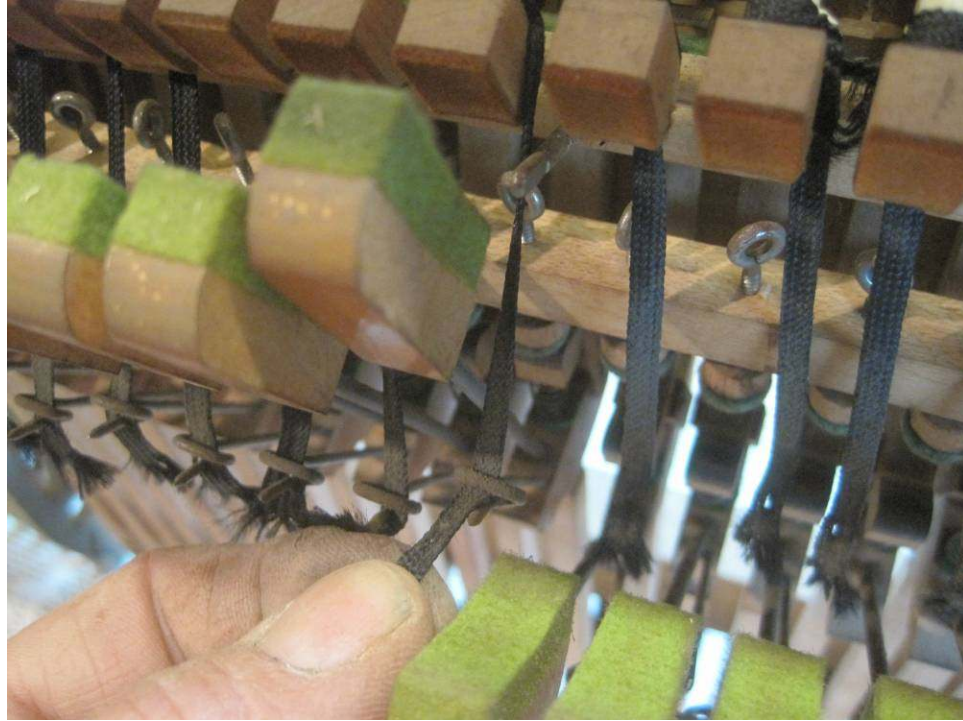


*Photo 23: The end hammer assembly from each section is removed and the hammer butt steamed off of the shank. These 6 hammers / shanks will be sent off to Schaff for duplication of the entire set.*



*Photo 24: The second hammer in for each section is left as a guide for when the new hammers are put on. All the rest are cut off and discarded.*





*Photo 25: The old bridle straps also need removing. These are not the factory originals, but a replacement set that had been put on a some time – years and years ago, judging from the type used.*

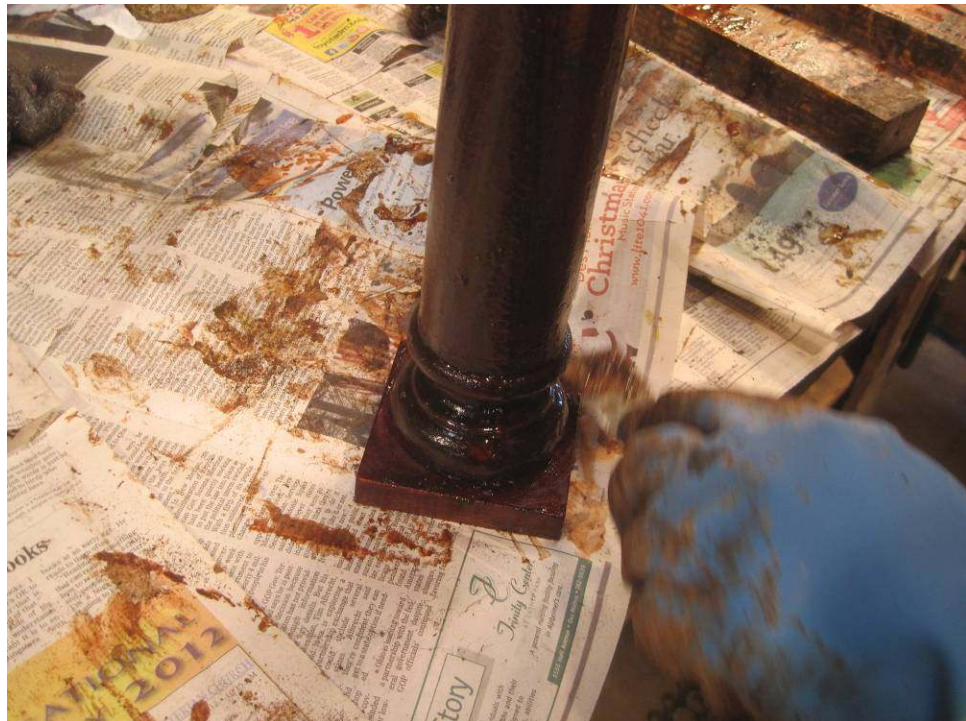


*Photo 26: The discarded straps.*





*Photo 27: The action with hammers (with the exception of the guide hammers) and bridle straps removed.*



*Photo 28: Now the real work begins. Each piece is stripped and sanded. Mess and time-consuming, but an essential step.*





*Photo 29: Dave shows off a piece which is stripped and ready for staining.*



*Photo 30: Stripped parts are returned to the parts trolley.*



*Photo 31: Careful cleaning the of the leaf work with a brass brush.*

Next up: Dave will continue working on the case and keys, while I focus my efforts on the action. As soon as parts return from Schaff, we can start putting things back together. This will be a great piano!