

Photo 35: The pinblock on this grand is not the "free-floating" type that comes out with the cast iron plate. Instead, it is firmly attached to the ledges on the inside of the rim.



Photo 36: Two large Phillips screws on the treble end come out without incident.

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Photo 37: Besides the screws, the pinblock is glued to the ledge as well. It takes pressure from 3 pinblock jacks to break the seal.



Photo 38: A single badly chewed up screw on the bass end resists backing out.



Photo 39: Drilling the head out is the only method. All 3 of the ledge screw holes will be plugged and redrilled anyway, with new screws, so drilling the screw out is of no consequence.



Photo40: The screw head is successfully removed. The screws have a long unthreaded shank at the top, so that the remaining portion still in the pinblock doesn't bite into the wood.



Photo 41: Two pinblock jacks are used to break the glue bond on the bass side, and are then used to continue pushing the pinblock up until it is clear of the shank of the screw..



Photo 42: Both sides of the pinblock also have an indexing pin in addition to the screws to help position the pinblock in the assembly process. New indexing pins will also be used on reassembly.



Photo 43: Once out of the piano, the pinblock is placed on construction paper to make a paper pattern. The curved edge of the pinblock is cut on a bevel, so it does not work to directly trace the shape of the pinblock directly onto the new pinblock material.



Photo 44: The pattern is tacked down to the pinblock blank. Notice the word "top" printed on the pattern. It is very important to make sure the right side of the pattern is up – otherwise a mirror image of the pinblock would be cut and I would have a very expensive piece of scrap wood.



Photo 45: The bevel is clearly marked on the new pinblock material. Again, if the direction of the bevel were inadvertently reversed, the pinblock cut would be scrap wood. The new 1 ¼" thick pinblock is laminated hardrock maple. Fewer laminations mean more wood, less glue.



Photo 46: The pinblock is marked for cutting on the band saw.



Photo 47: The saw bed is tilted so that the blade lines up with the bevel of the old pinblock.



Photo 48: The cut is started. The band saw cuts through the thick hardwood like a hot knife through butter.



Photo 49: Changing positions to support the end of the pinblock coming off the saw, I finish the cut.