

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

## Focus On: Routine Maintenance for Your Spinet Piano



Information provided courtesy of:

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**As the owner of a spinet piano you have the advantage of playing on an authentic acoustic piano which is conveniently sized—approximately the same dimensions as a digital piano.** A spinet is often a good option for the home owner or apartment dweller who doesn't have an abundance of space, but who wants a real piano to play. With proper maintenance, a good quality spinet piano can be a reliable instrument that provides years of musical enjoyment.

**Tuning:** As with any acoustic piano, following a regular tuning schedule is essential for a spinet piano to perform up to its potential. An adequate tuning schedule for a piano being used frequently is a once-a-year tuning, usually scheduled for approximately the same time of year each year. For the piano that is being played heavily, a semi-annual or quarterly tuning would be better yet.

**Repairs:** Your spinet piano action has thousands of individual parts, and after years of use parts may wear out or simply break. Oftentimes spinets have plastic parts which may be more susceptible to breakage than wooden parts. The good news is that most of the parts found in a spinet piano action which are prone to breakage are typically replaceable by the professional piano technician.



*New plastic elbows being installed in a spinet.*

**Regulation:** For your spinet piano to perform at its peak, the first step is to get it into tune and repair all broken or worn parts. When this has been done, the piano is ready to be "regulated." Regulation refers to the procedure of adjusting all the moving parts of the piano action so that the mechanism is performing in peak form, with no wasted motion. Because of the compact design of the spinet piano, it is particularly important that the piano is adjusted to perform at its best. Just as a small car is more enjoyable to drive when it is running correctly, a small piano will be more satisfying to play when correctly regulated.

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