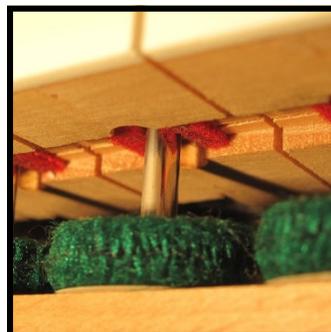


# The Piano Owner's Heads-Up Guide to Important Piano Maintenance

## Focus On: Rebushing Keys



*Front rail bushings*



*Balance rail bushings*

Information provided courtesy of:

**Bill Davis, RPT**

**770.778.6881**

[bill@pianoplace.net](mailto:bill@pianoplace.net)

For piano keys to have that "new piano" feel a quality set of key bushings is essential. Felt bushings are to piano keys as piston rings are to the pistons of an automobile engine. Without rings, pistons would clatter loosely and ineffectually inside their cylinders. Likewise, without key bushings, the wooden keysticks would rattle against the keypins which serve to keep the keys on track. When bushings are hardened with age or have loosened and dropped out of place altogether, keys become wobbly, giving the piano a distinctive "old piano" feel. **The key bushings of your piano have reached the stage of wear and tear where it would make an appreciable difference in the feel of your piano to have them professionally replaced.**

This job is ordinarily done in the workshop. It involves careful removal of the old bushings, precise measurements of felts to be used and expert reinstallation and fitting of the new bushing cloth.

**Functionality of the Parts:** The wooden portion of the key (the "keystick") operates much as a child's teeter-totter. The center of each key rests on the balance rail, which serves as the fulcrum. Two polished "keypins" (front rail pin and balance rail pin) keep the key tracking in a straight line. Felt punchings (the green and white felts in the photos above) cushion the keys from underneath, and felt bushings (the red felts in both photos) help to make sure that each key has a snug fit and is silent in its operation.



*A key which has been professionally rebushed.*

With your keys rebushed your piano will be a big step closer to being as responsive to your touch as the day it left the factory and should be much more of a pleasure to play.

**Bill Davis, RPT**

**The Piano Place GA**

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