

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

Focus On: Splicing Broken Grand Hammer Shanks



Information provided courtesy of:

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Grand piano hammer shanks are subjected to continual stress as the piano is being played, and upon occasion will break, usually in a section of the keyboard that is used most frequently. When this happens, as shown in the photo above, at least one note (sometimes more) quit working suddenly, and a repair is needed. **Your piano has broken shank/s needing repair.**

When the break in the shank is a long one (think of a pencil that has split apart) it may be possible to join the two halves together and reglue them. However, if the end of the break is more or less blunt, it is necessary to either replace the shank with a new one, or repair it with a splice.

Splicing the shank is an option which gets the piano up and running again, and is useful especially in situations where replacements for the old flanges are either not available, or need to be specially ordered. Done well, a repair splice will last for as long as needed.



Special sawing jig required.

To make this repair, the action does need to be removed from the piano and is ordinarily transported to the workshop. While the action is in the shop, it would be an appropriate time to consider having other work done as well. If the hammers need shaping, or the action is in need of regulating, this would be the ideal time to consider having that type of repair completed.

Newly spiced shank being cut to length.

