

## Schiedmayer & soehne's relationship to Shiedmayer, J&P Piano MFG CO

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Schiedmayer & soehne's relationship to Shiedmayer, J&P Piano MFG CO -  
01/13/06 04:33 PM

Posted By: [yonnermark](#)

I'm trying to make sense of a particular piano that I have the opportunity to buy. On the fallboard it says:

SCHIEDMAYER

Formerly J&P Schiedmayer

Stuttgart

I'm trying to figure out if this piano is made by the well-respected SCHIEDMAYER & SOEHNE factory/company. Can anyone help me with this?

The Pierce Piano Atlas entries are as follows:

### **Schiedmayer, J&P Piano MFG:**

Est. 1853 by Julius and Paul Schiedmayer at Neckarstrasse 21, Stuttgart, Germany. This name is now used by Kawai.

[list of serial numbers beginning 1880 - 14300]

### **Schiedmayer & Soehne:**

Est 1809 at Schillerplatz 4, Stuttgart, Germany. In late 1979 Schiedmayer was taken over by Rud. Ibach Sohn. In early 1984 Schiedmayer & Soehne was being made under license by Kemble in England.

[list of serial numbers beginning 1880 - 11000]

Thanks for any assistance

Regards,

Mark

Re: Schiedmayer & soehne's relationship to Shiedmayer, J&P Piano MFG CO -  
01/13/06 05:58 PM

Posted By: [AaronSF](#)

Same family, different branches. Both branches of the family made outstanding pianos, especially between about 1890 and WWII.

J. & P. Schiedmayer became officially known as "Schiedmayer Pianofortefabrik Stuttgart." The company went out of business in 1969. The name was sold to Kawai, but I'm unaware of Kawai actually producing any pianos with the Schiedmayer label. At any rate, nothing after 1969 would be a genuine Schiedmayer Pianofortefabrik Stuttgart piano.

How do I know? I own a 1913 Schiedmayer 170cm grand (Schiedmayer Pianofortefabrik Stuttgart, not Schiedmayer und Sohne). It's a beautiful instrument, beautifully crafted, and, I thought, worth preserving for another 50 years, so I just had it rebuild.

I've seen both J. & P. Schiedmayer and Schiedmayer und Sohne pianos occasionally over the years. They're different pianos, but both are high quality. J. & P. Schiedmayer thought of itself as competing with Bechstein, as I recall, and the piano I have is certainly in that class. The workmanship is very, very fine.

If I have one word of warning, it is this: the construction of my piano is quite idiosyncratic. The action geometry was sufficiently different from the Renner standard that my rebuilder couldn't replace my Schiedmayer wippens with Renner wippens, which necessitated rebuilding each of the Schiedmayer wippens individually -- a time-consuming and costly task.

The pinblock was also a very unusual, three-level affair that the rebuilder had to duplicate by gluing together two pieces of pinblock stock to achieve the proper depth in the bass section, and then the whole thing had to be essentially sculpted to fit, with a portion of the pinblock extending out under the plate like a bass bridge apron. This was also time consuming and costly. You can see photos of the pinblock (and the rest of the piano) here:

[My Schiedmayer thread \(Link: http://www.pianoworld.com/ubb/cgi-bin/ultimatebb.cgi?topic/1/12312.html\)](http://www.pianoworld.com/ubb/cgi-bin/ultimatebb.cgi?topic/1/12312.html)

I love my Schiedmayer. It's a unique instrument with an incredible treble. It's tone makes it ideal for much of the Romantic repertoire I favor. The action feels wonderful (thanks to the rebuilder, who Stanwood-ized it), and I can reproduce all dynamic levels with ease. Plus it's the right size for my condo.

BUT if I had known how much trouble it was going to be to rebuild (and trouble=money in rebuilding), I'm not sure I would have done it. I don't fault the rebuilder because he told me from the beginning that they might encounter all kinds of unexpected problems -- and much of the difficulty (like the pinblock) was not obvious on first examining the instrument. For what I paid to have this instrument rebuilt, I could have bought at least a top-end Tier II piano new. But then I wonder if I would have actually bought a new instrument. Because the rebuilding costs happened incrementally, it just sort of happened. If I had been faced with a \$25,000 to \$35,000 cost on a new piano, I might well have settled for something less and been unhappy. As it is, I have a fantastic instrument I'll have for the rest of my life.

I'm just Monday morning quarterbacking. They are fantastic instruments.

Re: Schiedmayer & soehne's relationship to Shiedmayer, J&P Piano MFG CO - Posted By: [yonnermark](#)  
01/13/06 06:03 PM

Hi Aaron,  
Thanks for such a useful reply, I appreciate you taking the time to bring me up to speed. The Schiedmayer [upright] I'm looking at was made in the late 1920s. Do you happen to know if their uprights had adopted a standard action design by this time?

I don't want to end up with an outdated action if I can avoid it 😊

Thanks again  
Mark

Re: Schiedmayer & soehne's relationship to Shiedmayer, J&P Piano MFG CO Posted By: [Colin Crawford](#)  
- 01/13/06 06:07 PM

**Quote**

Originally posted by AaronSF:

**J. & P. Schiedmayer thought of itself as competing with Bechstein, as I recall, and the piano I have is certainly in that class. The workmanship is very, very fine.**

In fact their construction has more in common with Steinway. At least three different Schiedmayer designs from the late 19th and early 20th Centuries display very Steinway traits, even down to the angle between the keyboard and long side being slightly off 90° making the front section of the lid not line up with the main section when folded back on itself. Styling of the frame itself is also very Steinway, although we're not talking M&H style carbon copying here.

Re: Schiedmayer & soehne's relationship to Shiedmayer, J&P Piano MFG CO - Posted By: [yonnermark](#)  
01/13/06 06:10 PM

Quote

although we're not talking M&H style carbon copying here

nice!

Re: Schiedmayer & soehne's relationship to Shiedmayer, J&P Piano MFG CO - Posted By: [AaronSF](#)  
01/13/06 07:37 PM

Mark,

I know nothing about Schiedmayer uprights, sorry! Maybe Mr. Crawford can speak to that. There are a lot more Schiedmayers floating around the UK and Europe than here in the U.S.

I had also heard that Schiedmayer and Steinway designs have many similarities, and I have read that some call the J. & P. Schiedmayers the "German Steinway". I suspect that was a Schiedmayer sales pitch! Ironic, given that there *is* a German Steinway! 😊

Re: Schiedmayer & soehne's relationship to Shiedmayer, J&P Piano MFG CO Posted By: [Colin Crawford](#)  
- 01/13/06 08:23 PM

Quote

Originally posted by AaronSF:

**Mark,**

**I know nothing about Schiedmayer uprights, sorry! Maybe Mr. Crawford can speak to that. There are a lot more Schiedmayers floating around the UK and Europe than here in the U.S.** 😊

Heh! heh! I'll try!

Usually old J&P S uprights are very nicely designed and executed too, with a clever system of adjusting damper bodies with two side-by side screws attaching the flanges to the beam with a curved base to the damper flange. Loosening one necessitates tightening the other. This allows for easy spacing of the dampers, and replaces the concept of wire mounted damper heads; in the Schiedmayer action, they're wooden.

Of course it also means that they are full of non-standard components.

Re: Schiedmayer & soehne's relationship to Shiedmayer, J&P Piano MFG CO - Posted By: [yonnermark](#)  
01/13/06 11:31 PM

thanks colin.  
I'll look for that special damper mechanism.

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