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Subject: Piano Tuning - Up a semitone...  
Posted by [Kim](#) on Sat, 22 Apr 2006 08:29:05 GMT  
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Surely somebody here can fill me in on this.

I'm really after one basic peice of info.

I have a piano here, and it's got some sentimental value as it's the piano I learned to play on from age 5 to 20 or so. Thing is it's down half a step, or 90% of half a step. At the moment I don't like to play it, because while I don't have perfect pitch per se, I have enough of it for it to annoy me when something is flat. The piano is no real use to me as is, so I want to get it back to 440.

What's going to happen? I've heard that when a piano has been flat for a long time they tend to slip back. What I want to know is, is it like a guitar? Is it safe for me to assume that it's just going to keep slipping and need three or four tunes before it will settle on pitch? Or will it never tune to pitch?

If it's just a matter of tuning it several times I'm willing to get cracking and get it tunes to pitch. Indeed it would probably increase the amount I would practise jazz if I had a real piano at 440 to practise on.

The secondary question... what's to stop me grabbing the nearest chromatic tuner and a spanner and giving it a bash myself. Obviously it would take me a while, but is there any real trick to it. I mean if it's going to slip back out of pitch, I figure even if I do a bad job, I might as well life it up to around 440 and let it sit for a month before I get a real guy out here. Even if I do a bad job and it's not particularly good to play, surely I'm better off to have it close to 440 as a start point, rather than flat a semitone?

And while I'm at it, anybody know anything about fixing pianolas? ;o) When you start to pedal, a number of keys play when they're not supposed to, and it's leaking a fair bit of air... ...surely nothing some gaffa can't fix? ;o)

Cheers,  
Kim.

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Subject: Re: Piano Tuning - Up a semitone...  
Posted by [Stevehwan](#) on Sat, 22 Apr 2006 13:00:21 GMT  
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Hey Kim,

I used to tune my piano in the studio. It is a pill. It would cost you more for the tuning set up than the 45 bucks to have a pro just come out and tune it. The wrench is about \$50.00, then you need a 1/2 strip of felt about 1 ft. long and 4 soft rubber wedges, 3 narrow and 1 wide, then a soft rubber clamp which looks a lot like a fancy close pin, which you use to tune the middle of the three strings. You may have \$80-100.00 in it before you even start tuning.

Real encouraging ain't I?

Steve

"Kim" <hiddensounds@hotmail.com> wrote:

>

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Subject: Re: Piano Tuning - Up a semitone...  
Posted by [Dedric Terry](#) on Sat, 22 Apr 2006 15:41:23 GMT  
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If it has been a long time, it could slip back pretty quickly, but what most pro tuners recommend is having it tuned again in 3-6 months, depending on how old the piano is, and how particular you are about it. It might hold fairly well after a couple of tunings if the strings and hammers are in good shape. Having it tuned every 6 months to 1 year after that should suffice for a home piano, depending on temperature, humidity, etc.

I would have a professional tuner do it. A reputable tuner that works by ear (pitch fork) may give you the best tone. I've used both - an older gentleman that tuned by ear, and a guy that used an electronic tuner. Both did a great job, but the ear-tuned piano seemed to have a little "warmer" tone - it's all about getting the surrounding strings at the right sympathetic resonance.

Another thing you might want to consider is having it voiced too. This usually isn't a lot more when done with a tuning and evens out the hammers' felt. Over time, the felt becomes hard and the piano starts to sound "hard" - some hammers may also be inconsistent. When voicing the tech just softens up the hammers slightly where necessary. It does make a difference if the hammers are in good shape.

Regards,  
Dedric

On 4/22/06 2:29 AM, in article 4449e951\$1@linux, "Kim"  
<hiddensounds@hotmail.com> wrote:

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> it's leaking a fair bit of air... ...surely nothing some gaffa can't fix?  
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> Cheers,  
> Kim.

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Subject: Re: Piano Tuning - Up a semitone...  
Posted by [Deej \[1\]](#) on Sat, 22 Apr 2006 16:15:56 GMT  
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>What I want to know is, is it like a guitar?

Absolutely!!!!.....just wrap a big bungee cord around it like a capo.

;o)

"Kim" <hiddenounds@hotmail.com> wrote in message news:4449e951\$1@linux...

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Subject: Re: Piano Tuning - Up a semitone...  
Posted by [tonehouse](#) on Sat, 22 Apr 2006 17:02:45 GMT

Hi there..I am a piano tech/musician...Steve is right...get a "pro"....The problem is the unknown condition of your piano. If it is a good sturdy brand,with no cracks or action problems,then that sort of pitch raise is no bother...I use a device called a Reyburn Cybertuner..it costs \$1,500...if you really want to tune,get one of those... Would you buy a used car without letting a mechanic look at it? If not,call a registered piano tech...good luck....

"DJ" <animix\_spam-this-ahole\_@animas.net> wrote in message news:444a5818@linux...

> >What I want to know is, is it like a guitar?

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> Absolutely!!!!.....just wrap a big bungee cord around it like a capo.

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> "Kim" <hiddensounds@hotmail.com> wrote in message news:4449e951\$1@linux...

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Subject: Re: Piano Tuning - Up a semitone...  
Posted by [Rod Lincoln](#) on Sat, 22 Apr 2006 17:40:11 GMT  
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Note to self....make SURE all coffee is swallowed before reading ANY post  
by DJ.

rod

"DJ" <animix\_spam-this-ahole\_@animas.net> wrote:

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