

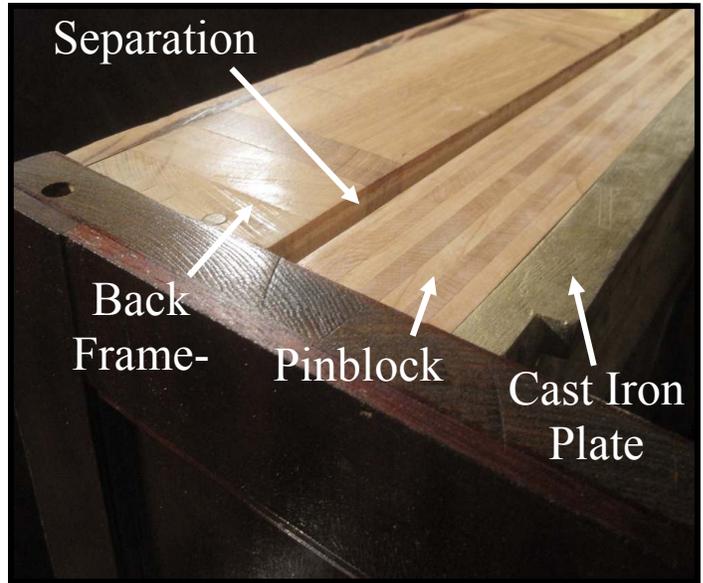
The Piano Owner's Heads-Up Guide to Important Piano Maintenance

Focus On: Repairing the Separated Back of a Vertical Piano



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The back structure of the vertical piano needs to be rock solid in order to hold the 18 or more tons of tension exerted by the strings of the piano. The cast iron plate, the pinblock and the back framework of the piano all work together to hold this tension in check and provide a stable foundation for tuning. This solidly built structure can, however, develop problems with age as essential glue joints weaken with the passage of time. In particular, if the joint between the back framework and pinblock of a piano loosens and starts to separate, any tuning the piano is given will be very unstable, the touch of the piano will likely be affected, and actual breaking of the plate is a real possibility. Your piano has developed a separation between the pinblock and the back framework which could cause very serious problems if left untreated.



The standard procedure for this repair is to reglue the separated joint by using clamps to squeeze the framework / pinblock assembly back together. Once the glue has cured, the original holes used for the factory installed lag screws are usually drilled all the way through the back of the piano so that carriage bolts or threaded rods with washers and nuts on either end may be installed. These bolts are tightened down so that permanent compression is applied to the repaired joint, preventing future separation.



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