

# Schober Organ Notes No. 56

Disclaimer: We accept no responsibility for any unfavorable consequences resulting from following our advice!

## OVERTURE

It has been suggested by a member, and I fully agree, that it would be a great idea for us, lovers of organ and theatre organ music, to take our kids or grand children to an organ concert. They might just like it and start listening to and enjoying real music (as opposed to the noise which is touted to be music these days). The saying "I know what I like" should actually be "I like what I know." All kids know today is R&R and Rap, (which in my opinion deserves a "C" preceding it).

## KEYBOARDS & CONTACTS

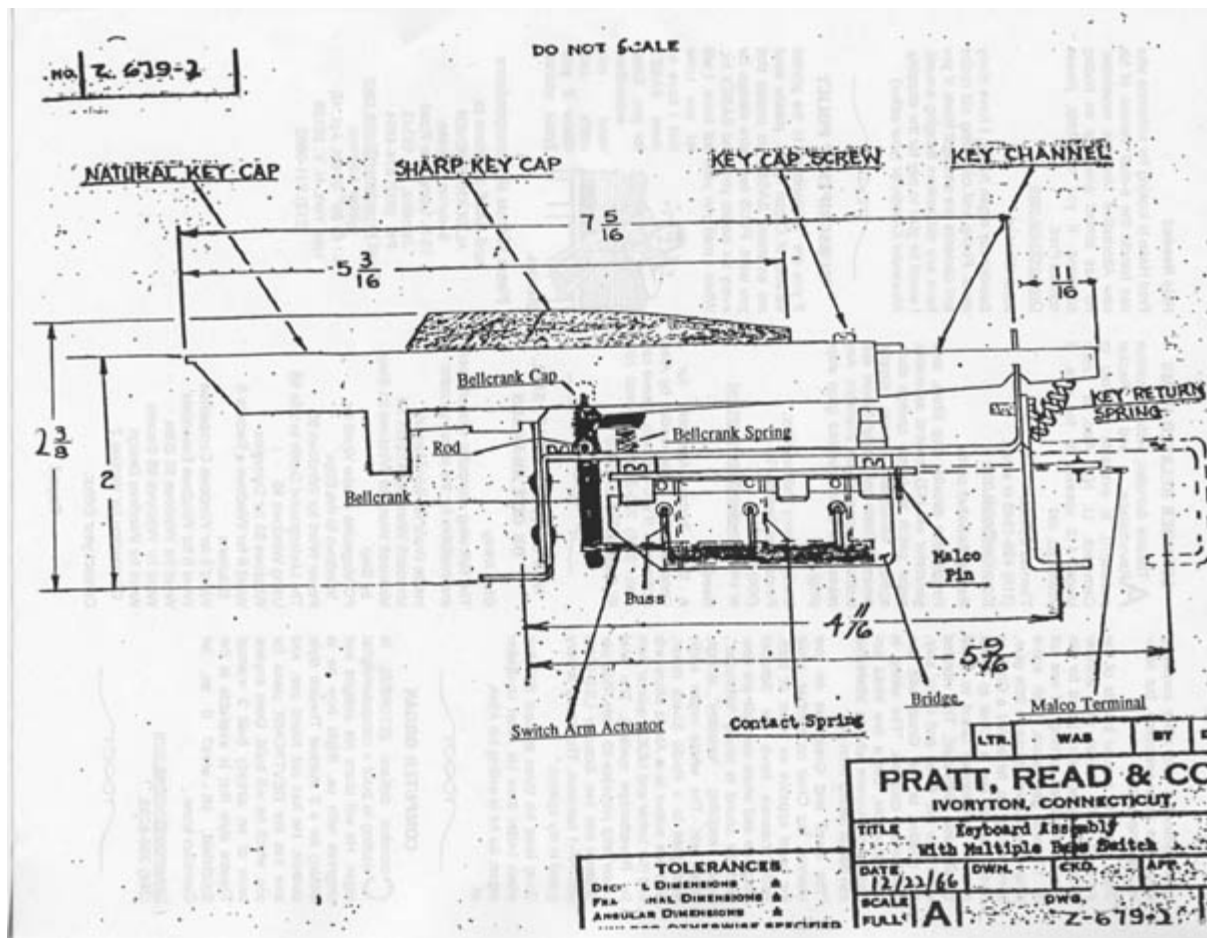
One problem, probably the most frequent that many Schober owners run into is dirty keyboard contacts. Schober became aware of the problem and published two Information Bulletins in regard to this matter. (BM-043 and BN-043A). In the earlier Bulletin, removal of the busses is recommended (and good instructions towards that end are given) and then cleaning with Nev-R-Dull (impregnated cotton waste) is recommended. The manufacturer, George Basch Co. Inc., is still in Freeport, NY 11520, at 19 Hanse Ave. (516) 378-8100. Contact them if you cannot find this polish locally.

In the second Bulletin, a good description is given as to how the gold keyboard buses and springs should be cleaned with Cramolin Spray R. This is a much less complicated matter. I cannot find the manufacturer Caig Laboratories in Westbury NY any more, (a Video Transfer Co. is at their former address) however fine contact cleaning sprays are available in electronic parts places everywhere. Be sure that they are safe for plastics, or be very careful not to spray the key covers. There also is a special spray for GOLD contacts.

If some of your notes don't play at certain registers yet play at other registers, cleaning the contacts would probably cure the problem. If you would like a copy of the bulletins, send me a SASE. ak

## KEYBOARD PARTS

In the diagram of the Pratt & Reed keyboard, you will see the names of all the mechanical parts. If you need any part to fix your keyboard, let me know what you need. I have a complete stock. Any part I have is yours for the postage. ak



## KEYBOARD PROBLEMS

I have a keyboard from an organ that was stored in a shed. Something leaked on it, or mice misbehaved, and some of the keys would not return to their normal position. I found that the water ran onto the bellcrank. The bellcrank pivots on a pivot rod, which runs the length of the entire keyboard through all 61 bellcranks. The pivot hole is lined with felt. This felt apparently got wet, held the moisture and caused the rod to rust. The rust bonded the felt to the rod, so that the bellcrank could no longer pivot. These bellcranks can be replaced. The rod has to be polished to remove all rust. This cures the problem.

To change a bellcrank and polish the rod, the keyboard has to be disassembled. The switch arm actuators have to be disconnected from the bellcranks. The plastic key caps have to be removed. The key springs have to be removed. The key channels then have to be removed. Each key channel sits on top of a bellcrank. The top of the bellcrank has a little protrusion, that holds a small plastic cap. These bellcrank caps fit inside of the metal key channels. Don't lose them. They are heavily greased. Some will stay in the key channel; some will stay on the bellcrank when you remove the channels from the frame. The clamps that hold the bellcrank rod have to be removed. Then the rod with all the bellcranks can be lifted up. There is a bellcrank spring under the top of each bellcrank. They will fall all over the place. Don't lose them, and replace them after the bellcrank rod is reattached with the clamps.

This repair is tedious and time consuming, but it can be done. ak

## STICKY KEYS

A message on our Web Page reads in part: "The keyboard keys will get very stiff to push after a

day or two of inactivity. The longer the stiffer. I run up and down the keyboard a few times and then they are smoother again. More and more are getting clackity..." I also ran into sticky keys, and found it to be the grease in the channels. After many years, in some keyboards, the grease has hardened, sometimes the bellcrank elbow caps (or bushings) are worn. This is a relatively simple problem to correct. Remove the key caps. Remove the key return springs. Then remove the key channels. Be careful not to loose the bellcrank caps, they may stay on the bellcrank, or they may stick in the grease in the channel. Take all the bellcrank caps and clean off the old grease. Clean all the old grease out of the key channels. Now replace the caps and grease them liberally. Replace the key channels, springs and key caps. If a key does not feel right, check to make sure the bellcrank cap did not slip off. Note that the white (natural) keys use a silver colored key return spring, the black (sharp) keys use a blue colored key return spring. I phoned Mr. Woody Comstalk, president of Pratt Read & Co. to ask him if he remembered what grease was used on the keyboards his company manufactured. He did not remember. To the rescue came Ray DeVault of DEVTRONIX, the same man who rescued Schober owners who had not completed the purchase of kits when Schober folded. He gave me the name of an outfit that sells the grease and the bellcrank caps. ORGAN SERVICE CORP. PO Box 372, Marengo, IN 47140-0372, (800) 457-4408. The grease is D-C #7, item 642-002-00, 5.3oz. \$15.95, The bellcrank caps (also called bellcrank bushings or key bushings) are item number 72320-264, \$.20 each. ak

## PORTRAIT

Doug Steeves, one of our Canadian members has built three Recitals and a Theatre Schober! He has B.Sc. in chemistry and math, B. Ed and M.Ed. degrees and learned electronics while teaching math to electronic engineering students. Before retiring in May '97, he had been Director of Administration and Vice Principal for 14 years. In 1972 he and his wife flew to New York to visit the Schober establishment. Jim Ramsey took them to his home to hear his Theatre installation. It was very impressive. Doug bought the electronics for his first Recital in the Summer of '72. He built his own console and speaker cabinets and used the pedal board from an old pipe organ. He convinced the local church, where he was and is still organist and choir director since 1964, to purchase a Recital to replace a Hammond E-5. This entire organ was built from Schober kits in 1973. At the same time he was also building a Theatre Schober for Bob Large (another of our members). "Thus in the Summer and early Fall of 1973 I had three Schober organs in our living room...my wife is a patient woman!!!" "I sold my first Recital to a friend of Bob Large in the province of PEI to have in the lobby of his motel. I then bought another complete Recital for my house and took great care to finish even the inside of the console (it too was walnut!!) thinking it would be the last instrument I would ever have. A nearby church made me an offer I couldn't refuse and I then bought my first Allen Digital Computer organ. I have had two other Allen's since and bought the last one in October 1984...the one I still have."

"In 1986, the Recital at the church was giving us a lot of reliability problems (not good for a church organ!), so the church decided to replace it with an Allen. Quite a change!! I repurchased the Recital and very shortly thereafter was able to repurchase the other Recital at the local church (they never did have anyone to play an organ!), thus I had two identical Recital organs." With these Doug started a project of building a three manual.



"I dismantled both totally, including the consoles and with much careful design found I could use all Schober console parts to construct my three manual organ in the same overall design of the originals. The top lid had to be cut back somewhat and other carpentry challenges were overcome, but nothing was impossible." Doug used the regular boards of the standard 1973 Recital, plus another voicing bus amp board for the Choir manual, all running off one set of 12 tone generators. With some simple mechanical tricks, a little glue, some wiring etc. he added a Choir to Pedal coupler and a Choir to Great coupler. The original Great to Swell coupler was eliminated. The vibrato is wired into the Swell and Choir only, but couples to the Great with the intramanual couplers. "The wiring is not impossible, but a few tricks are necessary. Anyone who is interested can obtain details from me." "The Swell and Great are on one channel, the Choir on another, while the pedal appears on either or both. Both channels have the schober Rototone and when manuals are coupled the sound is nicely 'chorused', even enabling 'celestes'...strings, flutes, etc. The whole organ audio then goes to a Radio Shack mixer, with one output to a Alesis Microverb unit (far better and MUCH quieter than the Reverbatape system). The final power amp provides 40 watts RMS per channel into two Schober LSS-10A's with HF-1 tweeters. The sound is very grand in my opinion."

Doug likes his three manual Schober much better than his Allen computer organ. So he is selling his Allen. ak

## COMPUTER ORGAN

Cornelius deKam (ETONES), is starting to build a computer/digital organ. He will share his designs and progress with us. Right now he is looking for a 3 manual Theatre style console. He has not found one, and now has the DEVTRONIX plans for one, which he will build. Does anyone know of an already build 3 manual Theatre style that is available in the Southfield MI area? If so, let Cornelius know. Dekamcor@hotmail.com (248) 356-8233.

## SCHOBERS RELATED ITEMS

A Theatre Schober, with percussion Reverbatape and Recital pedals(!!!), is available for free in Commack, LI NY. Also, a Leslie Model 110 speaker is for sale. If interested, call Thomas Cybula, (516) 499-1046 or email: tomonion@erols.com

Recital Schober parts. Registration circuits, stop filters, tone generator set (12), control assembly, pedal switch kit (some springs damaged), decoupler, power supply, preamp/vibrato unit, pedal clavier and instruction manual are available. Any reasonable offer accepted (plus shipping). Contact Henry Vollenweider, Fernandina Beach Fl. (904) 261-7114 or email: hvollen@net-magic.net.

## NON SCHOBERS SWAP, SELL, OR GIVE AWAY ADS

### Give Away

The following computer related books are available for the shipping costs:

Inside Word for Windows 95 Bill Camarda New Riders Publishing  
 Microsoft Word Developers Kit Microsoft Corporation Microsoft Press  
 Microsoft Word for Windows 95 Step by Step Catapult, Inc.  
 Microsoft Press PC Magazine - Take Word for Windows to the Edge Guy Gallo ZD Press

Power Word for Windows 95 Kate Edson MIS Press  
The Underground Guide to Window 95 Scott Finnie Addison-Wesley Publ.  
Using Windows 95 Ed Bott QUE  
Windows 95 for Dummies Andy Rathbone IDG Books  
Word 6 for Windows – Secrets & Solutions Alan R. Neibauer SYBEX  
Word 6 for Windows Companion M. David Stone & Alfred Poor and Mark Crane – The Cobb Group Microsoft Press  
Word 6 for Windows Essentials Geoffrey Mandel Peachpit Press  
Word for Windows 95 Bible Brent Heslop & David Angell IDG Books  
Word for Windows 95 Secrets Doug Lowe IDG Books  
Word for Windows Design Companion for Version 2 Katherine Shelly Pfeiffer Ventana Press  
Template Development and WordBasic Programming (39 pg. spiral bound) Task Force, Inc.  
Task Force, Inc.

## Help Needed

Fred Henn is looking for someone who can handle the e-mail version of his new Alternative Medicine newsletter. He has almost given up on finding someone. If you can help, please contact Fred. Oranur@juno.com.

## Junk Wanted

Besides my organ hobby, I have many more. Fixing and collecting old radios and cameras are amongst them. If you have any old junkers hanging around, I would be glad to pay for the shipping. Alexander Kruedener (Your editor)

If you are "subscribing" to the printed version of Organ Notes, please send me as many SASE's as copies that you want, PLUS two extra stamps for every six issues you send SASE's for. When I mail you your last issue, I will let you know that I have no more SASE's for you. Email  
Subscribers need only notify Jack Gildar if your Email address changes.

One item that was to be in ON 56 was inadvertently omitted from the e-mail version only. It was to read:

## NEEDED

A Stop Switch Assembly for a Console II is badly needed by Alan McFarlane. If you can help, please call Alan (605) 225-2410, or email him at: mcfarlaj@dtgnet.com.

## Also,

my address (if anyone wants to send SASE's or wants any of the books that I have to give away)  
Alexander Kruedener, 73 N Lamphear Rd., Jamaica, VT 05343, (802) 874-4894. E-mail  
Kruedener@Juno.com