

The 'Consort' Continuo Organ :- Operating Notes (2016).

Thankyou for purchasing the 'Consort' Continuo Organ. The keyboard unit can be played in 2 different positions using wing nuts easily accessible under the keyboard top-cover board. The case should be polished using a pure Beeswax polish. Please do NOT use spray (silicon) or modern paste waxes containing solvents (ie, waxes only suitable for bare, unsealed timber). This type of wax may damage the finish.

Storage :-

Above all, avoid direct sunlight or other close sources of heat. Hot sunlight can quickly dry out the top surface of wood, causing sudden contraction. This situation would be particularly damaging for wood-topped keys which may crack or curl up. It is NOT possible to repair such damage !! Remember that temperatures can rise very quickly when you leave an instrument in a parked car.

Transposition :-

The organ always powers up at standard pitch (A440hz). To lock the organ at this pitch, press the LOWEST 'D#' Key. The organ pitch will then be locked at A440hz.

If you want to play at A415hz (one semitone flat), press the LOWEST 'C#' Key. The organ pitch will then be locked at A415hz.

You cannot change the pitch of the organ without turning off power and powering up again. Please do not press any other keys before either of the transposition keys. Doing this can cause the midi signal to 'hang on' (ie, the midi note-off signal from the keyboard would no longer be valid) which will require turning off at the mains.

Electrical Specification :-

All organs can operate on both 115 volt (60 cycles) and 240 volt (50 cycles) AUTOMATICALLY.

The organ has TWO FUSE HOLDERS located on the BASS PIPE side of the main chest, amongst the pipework. These are marked 'M' (Mains) and 'L' (low-voltage DC). Spare fuses for each are stored inside the keyboard case. Only matching fuse sizes should be used.

In some organs, a special 8 pin socket is located above the fuse holders. This is to power a separate Bass / Seat Unit and should NOT be connected to anything else. It is NOT a MIDI output.

Mains connection MUST BE EARTHED. Please note the following.

The organ must always be un-plugged from the mains supply immediately after useage.

Do not attempt to open the main windchest chest without prior consultation.

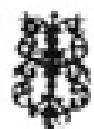
It is always best NOT to tune the organ after shipment until it has been in its designated room for at least 3 or 4 days. This is so all the pipe timber can acclimatise to their surrounding temperatures and humidity levels. This is particularly true if the organ is shipped in Winter, when the organ crate may have been in un-heated premises for some time, prior to delivery.

The lowest 'A' Pipe (at standard pitch) on the bass side is tuned using the supplied M6 screw, through the case hole. Screw into the pipe stopper about 2 turns only. Similarly, the left-most pipe on the treble side of the organ is tuned through the top of the case, having moved the keyboard to its overhanging position.

Tuning Tips :-

If an organ has not been tuned for an extended period of time, the felt lining of the pipe tuning stoppers, tends to 'cling' to the inside of the pipe, making it slightly more difficult to move. In this case, it is always advantageous to first PUSH IN the pipe stopper, and then ease it out again until IN TUNE. In the case of large pipes, you can use a small hammer and a piece of wood to tap in the stopper. The 26 open pipes are tuned by moving the hexagon socket screws immediately below each pipe. A 3mm Allen Key is supplied. Only tiny movements are required, clockwise to flatten the pitch, anti-clockwise to sharpen the pitch. If one of the smaller pipes sounds very flat, or not at all, suspect a particle caught in the windway. These particles can be normally removed with a narrow piece of paper, cut to a long point which you insert into the windway as the key is pressed down. The action of the wind and the paper will normally blow out the particle. Tuning always tends to settle down and remain increasingly stable after a period of playing (ie, the exact valve travel has been established).

David R. Leach 2016. davidleach2@btconnect.com



Harpsichord Clearing House
Glenn Giustari
Historical Keyboard Instruments

9 Chestnut St., Rehoboth, MA 02769
508 252-4304 800 252-4304

www.harpsichord.com