

MiriamSong Piano Tuning Kit User's Manual



Congratulations on your purchase of the MiriamSong Professional Piano Tuning Kit! With a little practice and patience, you will soon be using these high quality tools to save hundreds of dollars by tuning your own piano!



Ready? Okay...before we begin...

- If you are new to piano tuning, you should either buy a chromatic tuner or download a tuner app for your smartphone. Alternately, you could use a tuning fork , although most find a tuner easier to use.
- On most pianos you can remove parts of the exterior of the piano to gain easier access to the strings. Some parts simply slide off, some might be held in with a clip or pin. Consult the owner's manual for your piano if you are unsure how to do this.

Now let's take a closer look at the contents of your kit...

Felt Temperament Strip Mute
for left and center sections

Rubber Mute
for right section

Storage Case

Rubber Wedge Mutes
for left and center sections

Tuning Lever
with Quality #2 star tip

Quality Felt Mute
for left section

Quality Mute Clamp
for right section



Piano Tuning Basics

Okay, what are all these things and why do I need them? A little background first...

The piano is, of course, a string instrument and those strings need to be in tune for it to sound its best. If you have ever tuned a guitar, it's the same principle: Tune the string tighter to increase the pitch, looser to lower the pitch.

The piano's strings are divided into three sections...left, middle and right. The left section has the lowest notes, which are created by using long thick strings. The first 13 notes have one string, but the rest have two for each note. The middle and right sections all have three strings per note. There are only 88 notes on a piano, but there are over 200 strings!

When you play middle C, for example, the hammer is actually hitting three strings simultaneously and they need to sound identical to one another. However, you can't tune three strings at once...they can only be tuned one at a time. This is where the mutes come in...you use them to dampen the other strings so you can only hear the one you are tuning.

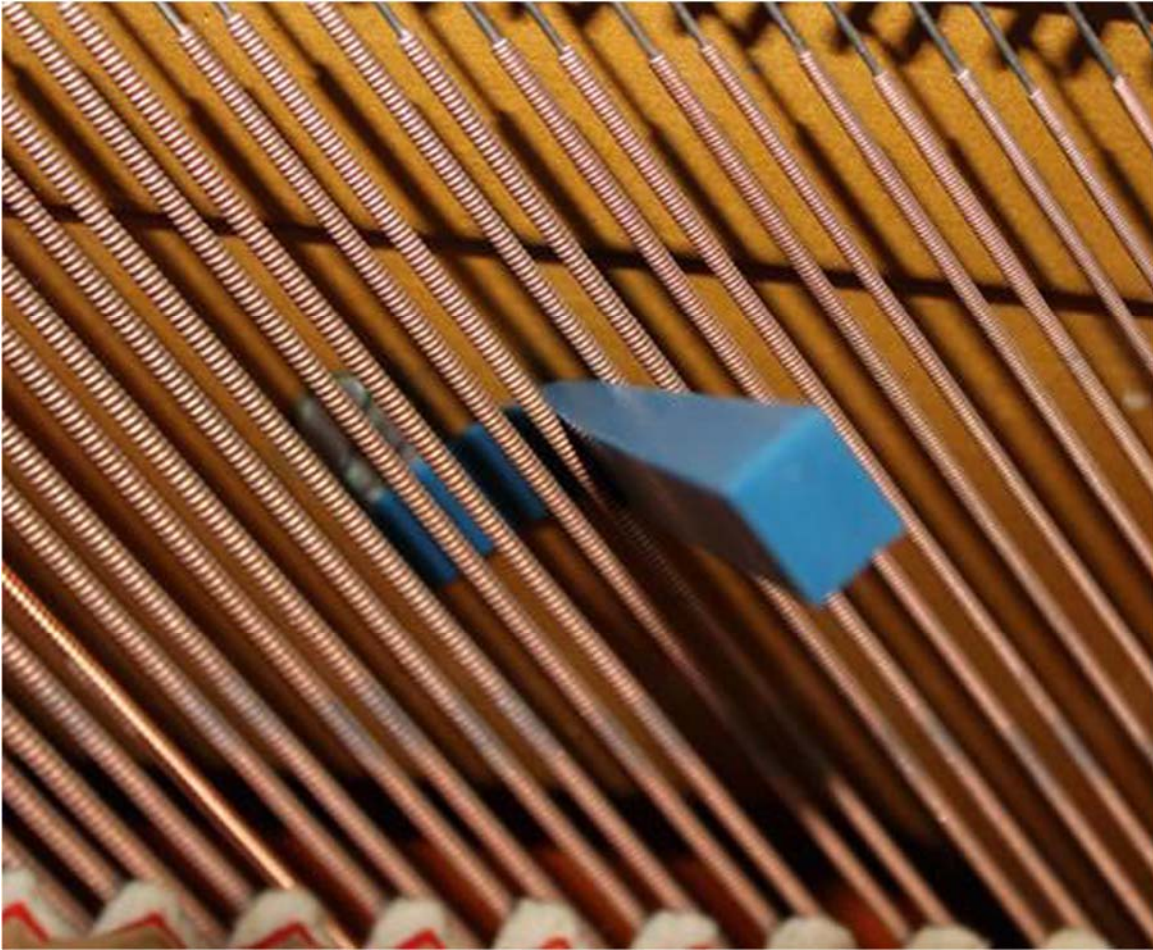
Here is the process in detail with pictures:

To tune the single thick strings on the far left:

Use the hammer to twist the tuning pegs until the note is exactly in tune, according to the chromatic tuner. For best results turn the hammer clockwise and tune the string from flat up to pitch. If you overshoot, loosen the string and repeat the process until the note is exactly right.



The rest of the notes in the left section have two strings. Insert the large felt wedge so that it mutes the right string. Use the hammer to tune the left string to pitch.



Next, remove the felt wedge and tune the right string so that it sounds identical to the first string. It is best to do this by ear. Out of tune strings have a “warble” when played together.

The middle section and right section all have three strings per note. As you move to the right, the strings are shorter, so you will use the medium rubber mutes.

Start by inserting two medium rubber mutes to mute the left and right strings, allowing only the middle string to resonate.



Use the hammer to tune the middle string to pitch.

Remove the left mute and tune the left string to the exact same pitch as the middle string. It should sound like only one string being played with no warble.

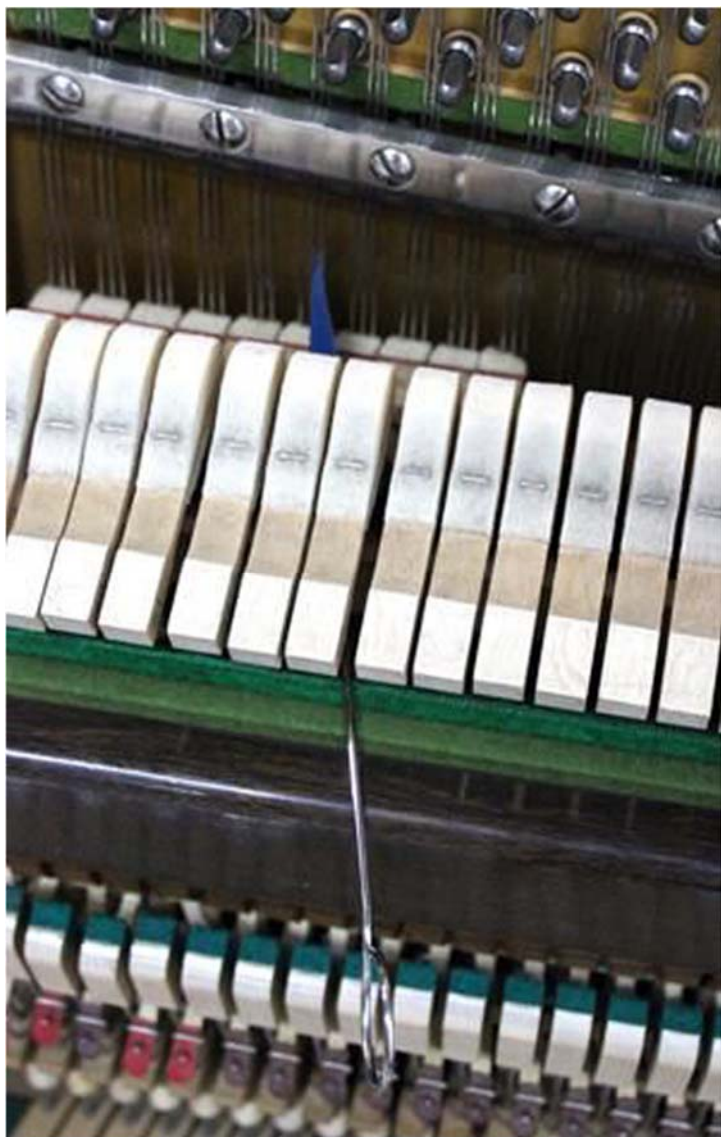


Finally, remove the right mute and tune the right string to the same pitch as the left and middle strings. (If you find it difficult to tune all three together, mute the left string so you can only hear the right and middle)

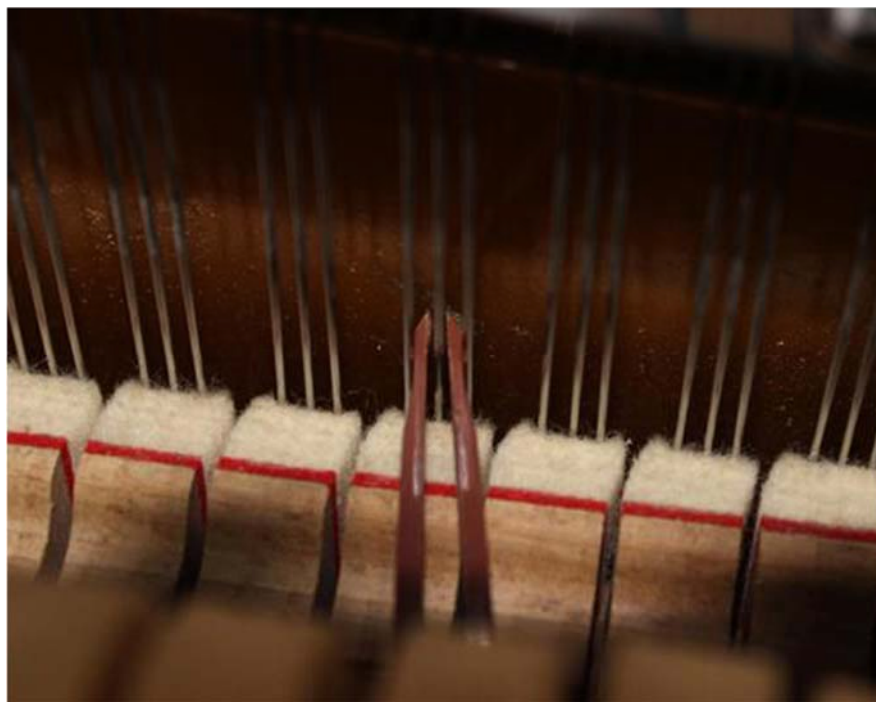
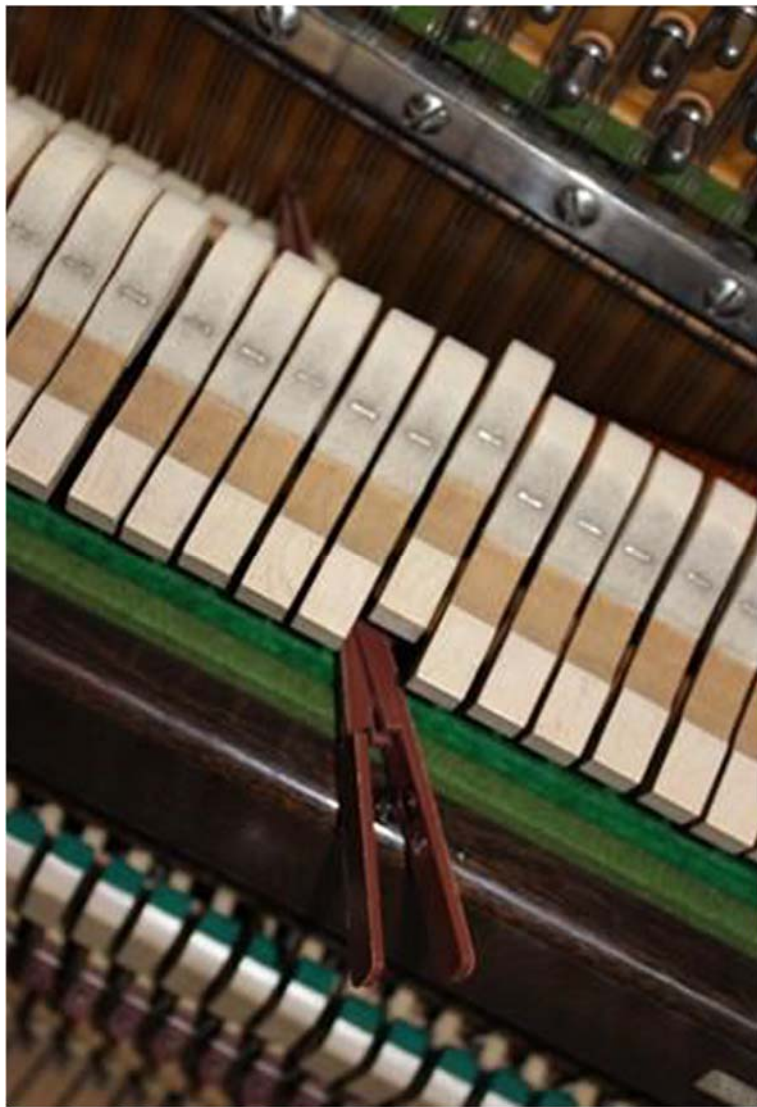
The higher pitched notes take patience to tune, since one small move of the hammer can make a significant change in pitch. At this point you can pat yourself on the back for choosing the MiriamSong Professional Kit. The long handle on the hammer allows easier movement of the pegs and the star bit allows more flexibility and ease in placing the hammer.



As you move up the scale to the right, there is less room to work. Use the small rubber mute with the metal rod to reach through the hammers to mute the strings.



Use the plastic tweezer tool to reach through the hammers and mute the left and right strings, leaving the middle string free to resonate. It can also be used as a regular mute.



The felt Temperament Strip can be used to mute the left and right strings, leaving the middle free to sound. This can be a great timesaver. Use a screwdriver to insert it in the gaps between strings as shown below, taking care to leave the middle string free.



When the Temperament Strip is inserted correctly, only the middle string of each group will resonate.



Working from left to right, follow this process: Tune the middle string, then pull out the left end of the Temperament Strip one notch to un-mute the left string. Tune the left string to the middle string. Pull the temperament strip out one more notch to free the right string, then tune it to the left and middle. Repeat.

Tuning tips:

- If a piano is completely out of tune or uniformly sharp or flat, you may need to repeat the tuning process more than once.
- Make small movements with the hammer and don't use excessive force.
- Always tune the string from flat up to pitch, not from sharp down to pitch.
- Many professional piano tuners prefer to do the two middle octaves first, then the low strings, then the higher ones.
- Take extra care to get the two middle octaves as exact as possible since those notes are used so frequently.
- Test your tuning as you go by playing octaves and fifths. A dissonant or warbling sound means the pitch is off and you need to revisit those strings.
- Be patient with yourself. It does take a little time to learn, but your speed and accuracy will improve with practice. You got this!

If you like the kit, please leave a positive review at www.amazon.com/ryp. If you're not happy, please email us at contact@miriamsong.com and we will do our best to fix the problem.