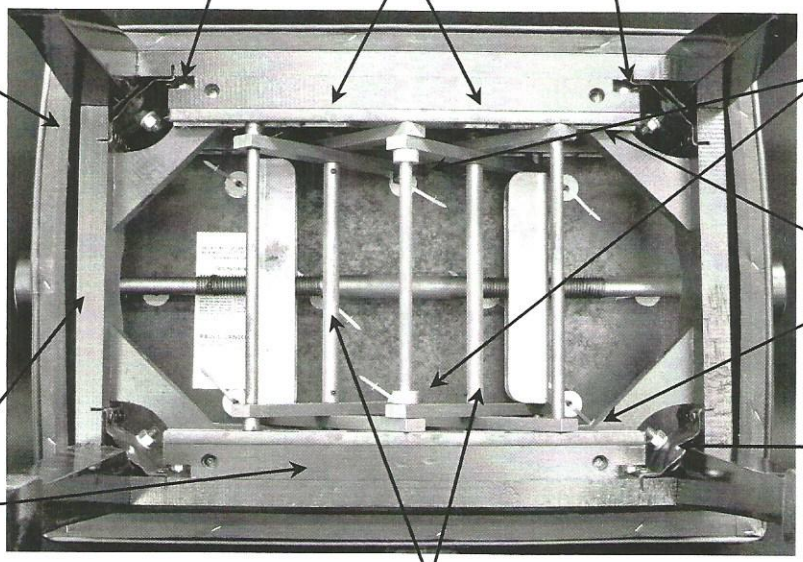
Rebuilding the Jansen Artist Bench

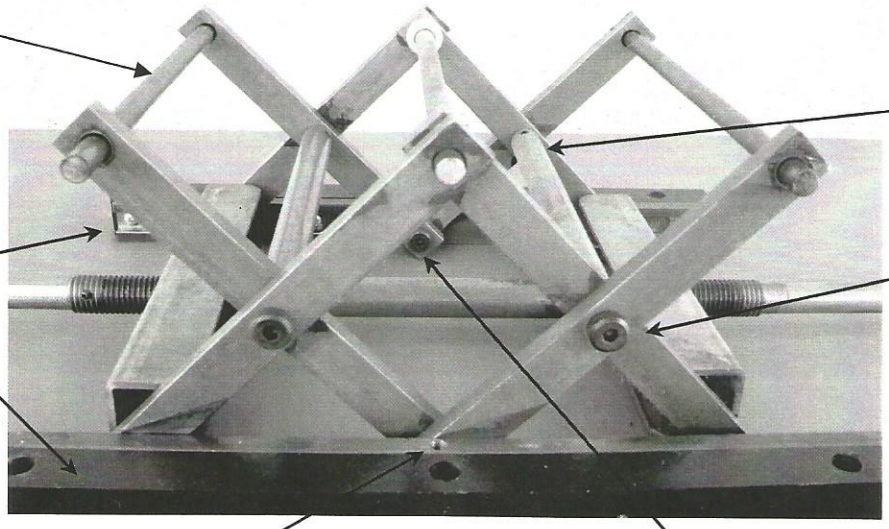
Bruce Stevens, RPT

Tools Needed

1 – Straight blade screw driver
1 – Phillips screw driver
1 – Needle nose pliers
1 – 3/8" Open-end wrench
1 – 3/32" Allen wrench
1 – 1/8" Allen wrench
2 – 3/16" Allen wrenches
1 – Paste lubricant, i.e. lithium grease
1 – Acid brush (to apply grease)
1 – Loctite 243 (Blue Removable)
1 – Jansen Parts Kit
Rubber gloves, cloth, masking tape

Anatomy & Nomenclature





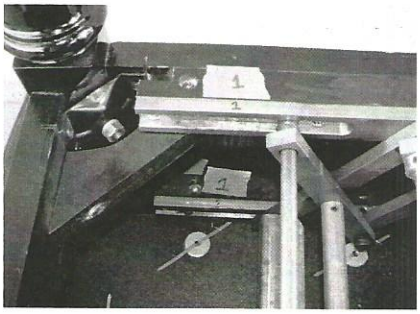
Rebuilding the Jansen Artist Bench Procedures

1) Place bench upside down on workbench/table.

2) Adjust mechanism to almost maximum height.

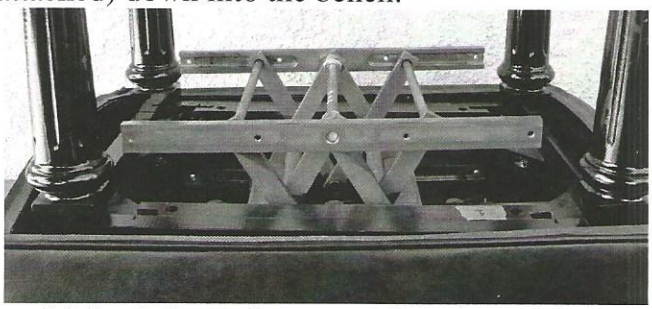
3) Loosen setscrews in adjusting knobs (3/16" Allen wrench) and remove knobs.

4) Mark metal track, wood bench frame and cushion frame with tape to keep them matched.



5) Remove all bolts and screws (4 on each side) that hold metal tracks to wood frame.
(Use 3/8" wrench or needle nose pliers to hold nut)

6) With screws removed, push wood frame (legs attached) down into the bench.



6a) Look for and secure shims that might be in between metal tracks and wood frame.

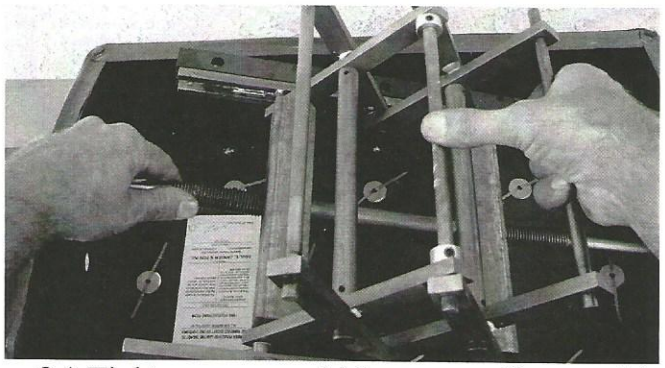
7) Remove both metal tracks and bushings then lift wood frame out (legs attached) and set aside…

7a) Do not interchange tracks or reverse position; they will need to be re-installed in original positions.

7b) The wood bench frame will need to be re-installed in the same direction as when it was removed.

8) With frame out, locate and remove (3) vertical screws in each 1"x1" wood cleat that attaches the mechanism to the underside of the seat cushion bottom. Do NOT remove Phillips screws which attach the bottom metal tracks to the wood cleats.

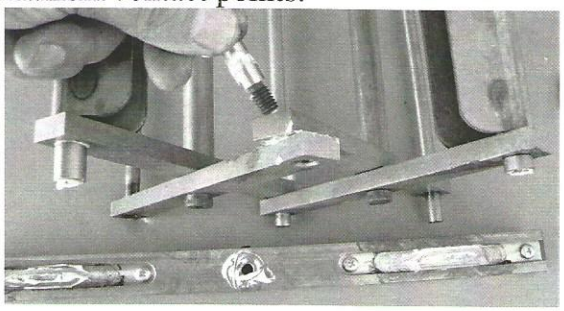
9) Once vertical screws are removed, slide mechanism to right or left, lift out and place on bench.



9a) Tighten screws which secure rails to cushion box.

10) With mechanism on bench, loosen Allen set screws (1/8") in center of upper side of both bottom tracks in order to remove center/lower shoulder bolts.
Now, turn mechanism upside down and remove shoulder bolt with 3/16" Allen wrench. Remove metal tracks/wood cleats from 3/8" cross rods so that lower bushings can be replaced.

11) Lubricate shoulder bolts, track slots and mechanism contact points.

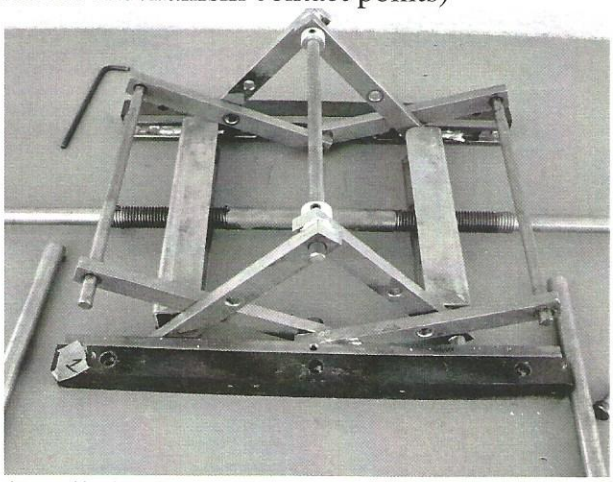


12) Install new bushings and reattach metal tracks/wood cleats on mechanism with shoulder bolts (DO NOT over tighten shoulder bolts…the "feel" is to back off a "skosh" from the point of the bolt being snug).

13) Apply Loctite 243 to setscrews (center of upper side of bottom tracks) and tighten to secure shoulder bolts.

14) Before mechanism is re-installed in cushion box: loosen (4) middle cross rod/tube setscrews (3/32" Allen key) then using (2) 3/16" Allen keys, remove shoulder bolts which secure mechanism to 3/8" rods/tubes and lubricate contact points.

(Removing both cross rods/tubes makes it easier to lubricate mechanism contact points)



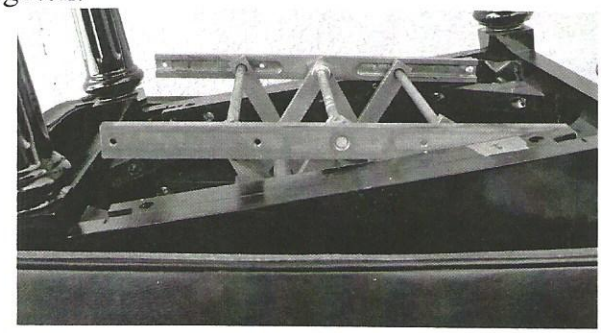
Reinstall shoulder bolts using (2) 3/16" Allen keys to "snug" the mechanism (the "feel" is to back off a "skosh" from the point of the bolt being "snug"). Apply Loctite 243 to setscrews and tighten with 3/32 Allen key.
Tighten top middle collars if needed.

15) Once mechanism is secure, install (correct side) back in box and secure with (6) vertical screws in wood cleats.

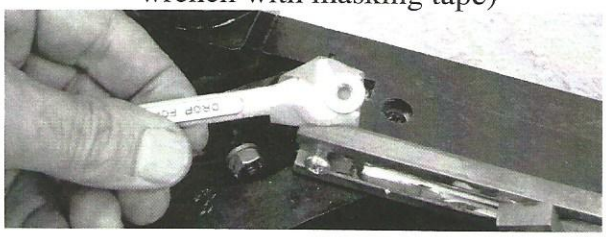
16) Lubricate top metal tracks and rod ends.

17) Set wood frame (correct side) inside box; Install new bushings on cross rods; set tracks in place.

18) Lift one side of wood frame and insert bolts through track into frame. Install nuts and partially tighten.



(Hold nut to 3/8" open-end wrench with masking tape)



18a) Now lift other side of wood frame and secure with the bolts and nuts.

18b) Install and tighten (4) remaining Phillips screws.

19) Install knobs; tighten setscrews.

20) Turn adjusting knobs to lower and raise mechanism several times to make sure bench is working properly.

I wish to acknowledge Mary Schwendeman, RPT for her article in the December 2000 Piano Technicians Journal, which was the inspiration for my class and this handout.