

THE LEVITAN PROFESSIONAL TUNING LEVER

Unprecedented control of the tuning pin
A more comfortable tuning position on both grands and verticals

Conventional tuning hammers always tilt (or "flagpole") tuning pins as they turn them (see the back for an explanation of this effect.) The patented "C" shape of the Professional gives you the option of turning a pin without tilting it; tilting a pin without turning it; or doing both at once.

As a bonus, the Professional allows you to tune more comfortably. On grands, you can sit with both hands just above the keyboard, without having to lift the lid or to change your technique in the high treble. On verticals, you can keep your wrist in line with your forearm while you gently rest your elbow on the piano's back.

Here are a few things to keep in mind as you begin to use the Professional:

ALWAYS GRIP THE HANDLE, NOT THE SHANK

This insures that when you push on the handle, the result is a pure turning force on the pin.

ALWAYS CARRY A CONVENTIONAL TUNING HAMMER

You'll find that the Professional fits onto virtually every pin on every grand, but there are some exceptions, such as the last few bass pins on Yamaha grands and pins close to the capo in the high treble of large grands with wide plate webbing. You may also find it easier to use a conventional hammer on verticals with large overhanging lids, instead of leaning the lid against a wall or removing it entirely to make room for the Professional.

In addition, you'll find it useful to have a small, lightweight conventional hammer for pitch adjusting (when you want to move rapidly from pin to pin) and for those non-tuning jobs that tuning hammers are so handy for (making string repairs, adjusting glides, seating strings, spacing grand jacks, releasing vertical action brackets, etc.)

USING THE PROFESSIONAL

You may be delighted by the idea of being able to tune without flagpoling, but you'll soon discover that some judicious pin tilting is a necessary part of piano tuning. Keep in mind that a tuning pin does most of its tilting when you first apply force. The more force you apply, the more the pin resists moving, so trying to tilt the pin farther generally has very little effect.

Don't worry too much about the potentially destructive consequences of gentle tilting. Remember that all piano tuners, everywhere, using conventional tuning hammers, have always flagpoled every pin they put a tuning hammer on. Piano design seems to have evolved to accommodate this small amount of tilting.

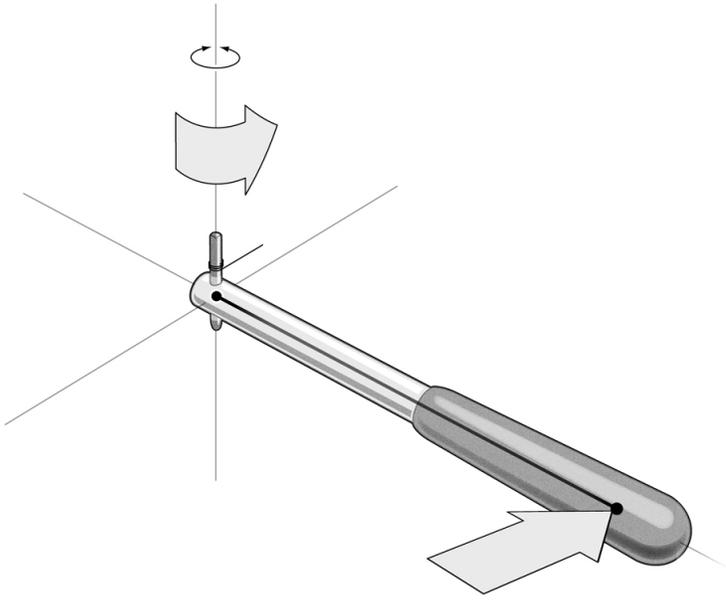
Generally speaking, the tighter the tuning pins, the freer the bearing points, and the shorter the front strings, the less you'll need to tilt pins. This means that you'll probably find yourself tilting pins less in the bass than in the treble, and less in new pianos than in old ones.

If you set the pin like most tuners--going flat, then sharp, then settling to pitch--you'll probably find that it's easier to get a feel for a pin if you refrain from tilting during the first two steps, and tilt the pin only when you need some extra help settling the string to pitch.

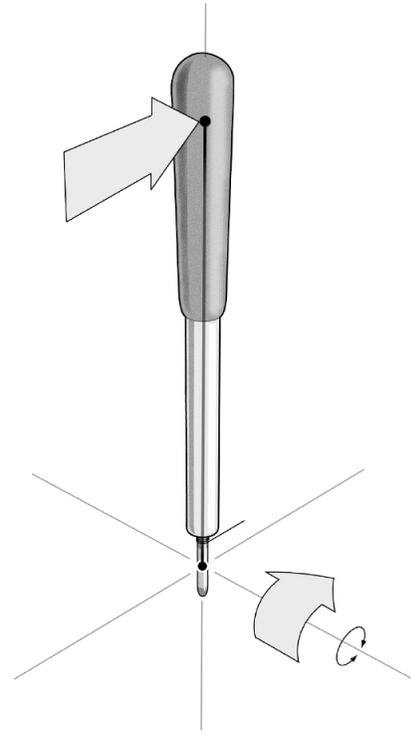
You'll appreciate the Professional especially when you want to touch up a string. If the pin is in a stable position, but the string is a little sharp or flat, the clean feel of the Professional allows you to turn the pin precisely to its correct position. You can then bring the string into tune without further turning, simply by twisting the pin and, if necessary, tilting it.

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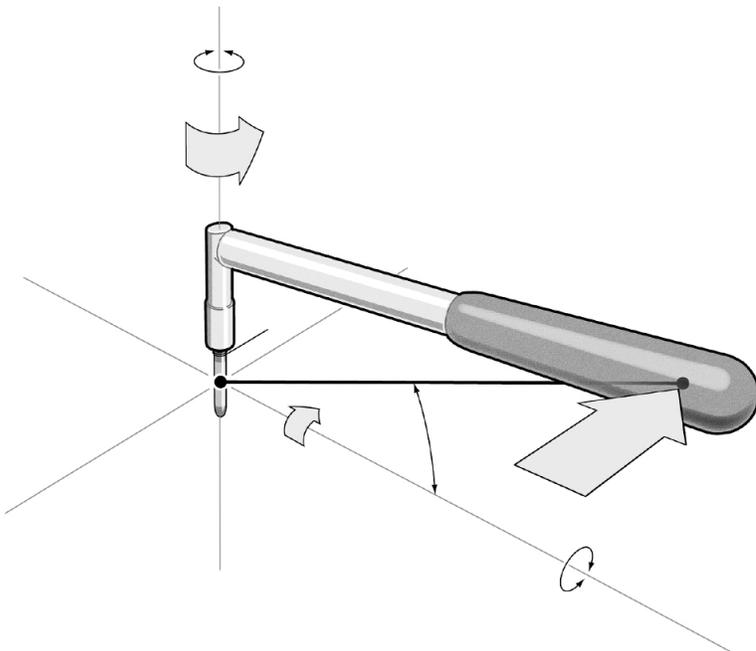
WHY CONVENTIONAL TUNING HAMMERS ALWAYS TILT TUNING PINS



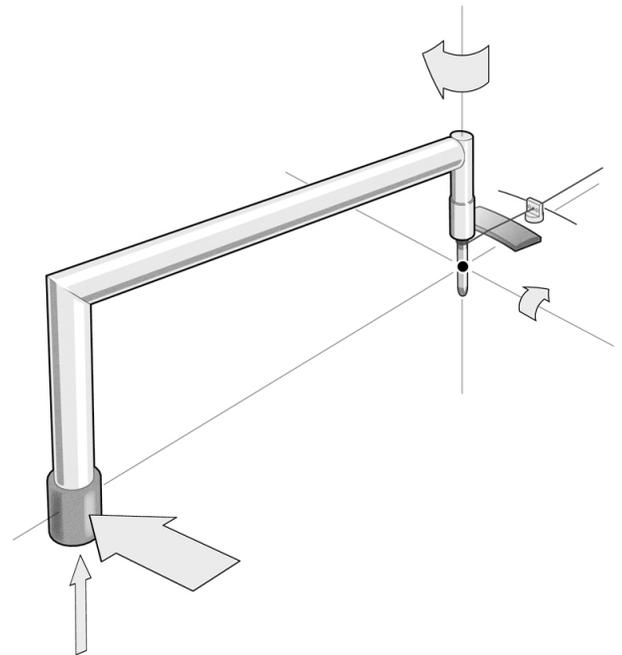
Pushing the handle of this imaginary tuning hammer turns the pin without tilting it.



Pushing the handle of this imaginary tuning hammer tilts the pin without turning it.



When you push the handle of a conventional, "L"-shaped tuning hammer, you both turn and tilt the pin, with a fixed proportion between the two forces.



When you use a "C"-shaped tuning hammer, you can choose to
-turn the pin without tilting it, by pushing the handle;
-tilt the pin without turning it, by lifting the handle; or
-both turn and tilt the pin, in any proportion, by pushing and lifting at the same time.