

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON THE TECHNICAL SIDE

by Lance Johnson

Do you have any questions?

Send them direct to:

QUIZ MASTER
And Organ Builder

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Q. I have decided to go the whole route and refinish all my theatre organ wood parts to the bare wood. I started by belt sanding the orange shellac but found it gummed up the paper with little or no shellac being removed. Is there any faster way to remove shellac?

A. You cannot sand off orange shellac because the heat from the friction dissolves the shellac into gum. You will have to use liberal paint remover first and scrape off with broad knife. After you have gotten as much as possible removed, wash the surface with synosol. Then you can use your belt sander to your heart's desire.

Q. I have seen some organ installation done with PVC sewer pipe for conductors. Do you recommend this?

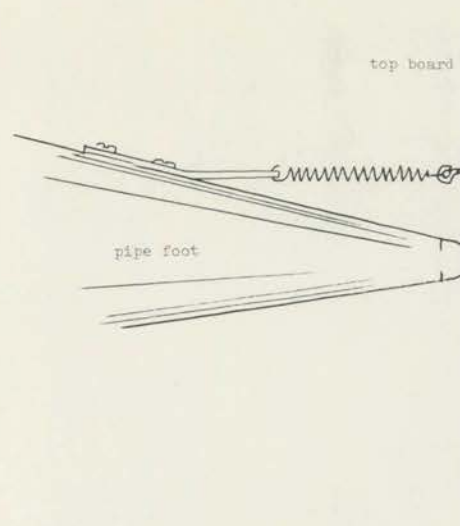
A. Most certainly. It will stand up longer than zinc or iron pipe and is very easy to fit and install. If the size gets up into the 8 to 12 inch size, it gets quite expensive. For winding offsets, shades, etc., it is ideal.

Q. Recently our organ service man recovered several pouches in our church organ with PVC leather substitute. Do you recommend this?

A. Several major builders of organ have tried this product with disastrous results. One builder is now recovering pouches in several of their organs built only ten years ago and doing it at the builder's expense. It is quite possible that some builders have used it successfully but many have not. Better to stick with your old-fashioned leather.

Q. I have an 8' Diapason off-set bass chest that I cannot stand up in my 8' ceiling chamber unless I miter several pipes. Can they be mounted horizontally?

A. I would mount this chest on its side and install screen door springs on the feet and tie them into an eye screw on the top board. This will pull the pipe into the hole and keep it air-tight. To attach the spring,



take a piece of flat steel, 1/8" x 1/2" x 5" and drill three holes, 3/16" in diameter. Screw the strap to the pipe using two of those holes and two #10 by 1/2" pan head (sheet metal) screws. The third hole is for the spring. (See drawing) String bass notes can also be installed in this manner. Do not attempt to do this with spotted metal or hoyt metal pipes. □

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