

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON THE TECHNICAL SIDE

by Lance Johnson

Do you have any questions?

Send them direct to:

**QUIZMASTER
and Organbuilder**

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Q. How can I obtain the Wurlitzer shipping list?

A. To my knowledge, the volume published by Judd Walton is out of print and the huge investment needed for a second printing has precluded this project.

Q. What is meant by a "keydesk."

A. This term is widely misunderstood. In today's organbuilding, the portion of the organ that the organist plays is the *console* and the shelf that the keyboards rest on is called the *keydesk*. However, certain theatre organ builders referred to the entire console as the keydesk. Over the years, theatre organ publications and hobbyists have begun calling the console a keydesk.

Q. What is the difference between a Xylophone and a Master Xylophone?

A. Larger theatre organs, especially Wurlitzer, had two Xylophones, one small scaled and one large. The larger one was called the *Master* to differentiate between the two.

Q. I would like to build a small two-manual theatre organ as a starter instrument of six basic ranks. What ranks should these be and how should they be distributed on the two manuals and pedal? (This will be a single chamber installation.)

A. Any number of organ builders will give you widely differing ideas as to how this organ should be built. Here would be my idea:

Analysis

Tibia Clausa 16', 97 pipes, 10" wind
Trumpet (or Tiba) 8', 61 pipes,
10" wind

Vox Humana 8', 61 pipes, 6" wind
Diapason 8', 73 pipes, 10" wind
Viol D'Orchestra (or Salicional) 8',
73 pipes, 10" wind

Viol Celeste 8' tc, 49 pipes, 10" wind
Solo

Tibia Clausa 16' tc, 8', 4', 2-2/3', 2',
1-3/5', 1'

Trumpet 16', 8', 4'

Vox Humana 8', 4'

Diapason 16' tc, 8', 4'

Viol D'Orch. 8', 4', 2'

Viol Celeste 8' tc, 4'

Accompaniment

Tibia Clausa 8', 4', 2'

Trumpet 8', 4'

Vox Humana 8', 4'

Diapason 8', 4'

Viol D'Orch. 8', 4'

Viol Celeste 8' tc, 4'

Pedal

Tibia Clausa 16', 8' (Two pressure
action to obtain soft 16' off Tibia)

Diapason 8', 4'

Trumpet 8'

Viol D'Orchestra 8' (Cello)

Couplers

Solo Sub Octave

Solo Unison

Solo Super Octave

Acc to Pedal

Solo to Pedal

Tremulants

Tibia Clausa

Vox Humana

General

Note: To save switches and stop rail space, group the Viol 8' and Celeste on one stop key. To add later percussions, consider first a Chrysoglott and then a Glockenspiel.

Chapter Notes Reminder...

Chapter Notes must be received by the editor no later than May 1st to be included in the June/July issue.

Q. Why do church organs have straight stop rails and theatre organs have horseshoe-shaped rails?

A. Due to the large number of stops found on even a small theatre organ, Hope-Jones, the inventor of the horseshoe stop rail, found that the tablets could be more compact in arrangement and closer to the player's hands. Some contemporary builders of classic organs have discovered the horseshoe stop rail and are building their larger consoles with them. Ruffati of Italy has built several rocker tablet consoles horseshoe style. Some tracker builders are using the horseshoe shape for their numerous drawknobs.

Q. I have a seven-stop manual chest for my Wurlitzer in which the tremulant affecting six out of the seven is winded into the main wind trunk between the chest and regulator. I decided to move the trem to the other end of the chest to make more room for service access and also to obtain a better tremulant. (You said I should have the trem on the opposite end of the chest from the air supply.) Now the problem is, the rank closest to the trem shakes very well but the others have hardly any trem. What should I do now?

A. It sounds to me like you have forgotten to make a trem manifold for the chest to trem conductor. Your trem manifold will consist of an air box 3" x 5" by the width of the chest of those effected ranks. After you have screwed this air-tight to the end of the chest*, you can wind your trem off any portion of this manifold. This will allow ALL ranks to be affected by the trem to bleed air into the manifold *equally*. A trem manifold is necessary only when the conductor for the trem is to effect two or more ranks.

*Be sure you have an opening for air access to the chest. □