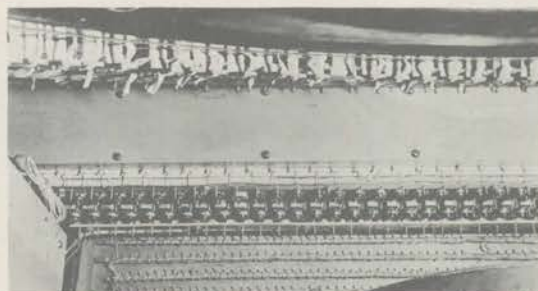


# Questions and Answers

- Q. How do you go about recovering the little pneumatics and the magnets in a theatre organ console? My organ is a Wurlitzer, 2 manual 6 rank.
- A. We have received a very fine picture story from Bruce Jacobsen of Bellingham, Wash., which we are using to reply to this inquiry.



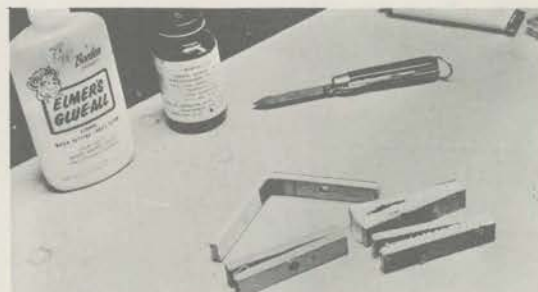
Close-up view of interior of two manual Wurlitzer console showing action pneumatics on top of stop bolster. Note inflated pneumatics. To recover, insert chisel gently under the end of pneumatic, and pry off. Thin leather glued under pneumatics acts as gasket, also allows prying loose without splitting wood ... leather splits instead.



Close-up showing the underside of bolster and the "off" pneumatics. These have a small block screwed to the underside which should be removed before prying pneumatic off. In background can be seen the underside of combination action chest in which has been installed a "replacement" magnet.



To replace dead magnet without removing cover, remove two dags holding magnet cap in place, remove cap, armature. Pry out magnet, pull down so wires are accessible. Clip wires close to magnet, straighten as much as possible. Strip off 1/4" of insulation, slip 3/4" length of insulating spaghetti onto wire. From replacement magnet, cut off excess wire, strip ends, twist each wire to one of the wires protruding from chest, and solder. Snip off excess length of splice, slip spaghetti over solder joint, slide magnet into place. With Reisner magnet, attach with two small 1/2" screws.



After the pneumatic is removed, and having assembled necessary materials as pictured, scrape off all the old leather and glue. Be careful not to remove "hinge" cloth on end of the pneumatic -- leather will usually come off easily without damage. Using "very thin" tan pneumatic leather, which has been cut into strips long enough to wrap around pneumatic with a lap on the hinge end, and as wide as the original leathering (measure wide end before removing old leather), you are ready to start. Shown are two damaged pneumatics, one scraped ready to re-leather, and one completed.



Apply glue to each block on open end. With leather smooth side down, "stand" pneumatic up on leather approximately in center of strip, with blocks at edge of leather. When pressed into place, hold block by hand, apply glue to each side. Wrap leather squarely around corners (be sure to get glue ON corners, too). Stretch slightly as you press into place. Apply glue to hinge end, press one end of leather down; cover this leather with glue, lap other end onto first end, trimming length as necessary beforehand. After glue has set (righthand pneumatic in photo), trim excess leather with sharp shears. Glue piece of same leather to bottom of pneumatic, being sure to cut out for hole. Pneumatic is ready to be re-glued onto bolster.



Picture of the Style No. 215 Wurlitzer console, Opus No. 1558, in the Bellingham (Wash.) Theatre, which was completely re-leathered by Bruce Jacobsen and his associates. Jacobsen writes that he had no previous experience in this work, but that the organ is now in top shape except for some refinishing needed on console. Many otherwise doomed organs can be saved for enjoyment in theatres, or elsewhere if they must be moved, simply by having someone intent on saving them intact apply their time and effort to the project. Too often, enthusiasts seem to be bent on removing as many parts of the organ as possible. Jacobsen invites all enthusiasts to stop by and "have a go" at their newly-rehabilitated organ.