

Restoration of an Ivory Keyset / Possible or Not?



Information provided courtesy of:

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The ivory keytops on your piano are to the point where something could be done to enhance their appearance. I would suggest that a job of ivory keytop restoration should be one option to consider.

A beautiful set of genuine ivory keytops on a vintage piano is becoming more and more of a rarity. Many ivory keysets on older instruments have suffered from wear and tear over the years, and are not particularly attractive. Bringing an original set of ivory back to "factory-fresh" condition is at times possible when done by the professional technician, but it can be very time-consuming, and the techniques involved to do the work correctly are painstaking.

At times, replacement of old ivory with plastic keytops may actually be less expensive and more practical. Consider both options when deciding what to do to make sure that you pick the plan best for you.



Factors to Consider

Keep in mind that ivory restoration may take more time than simple replacement of the entire set of keys with plastic. If ivories are loose, for example, every ivory should be removed (left photo) and reglued with proper techniques (right photo).

Also, if keytops are broken or missing, exact replacements may be impossible. That being said, however, the results of an ivory restoration job can be outstanding. Witness the 'after' picture below when compared to the 'before' picture in the opposite column.



If you would like to discuss having the keytops on your piano put back in beautiful condition, contact me at your convenience to set up an appointment. Working together, we can make sure that your piano is maintained correctly for your maximum enjoyment.

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