

## Focus On: Hammer Head Filing

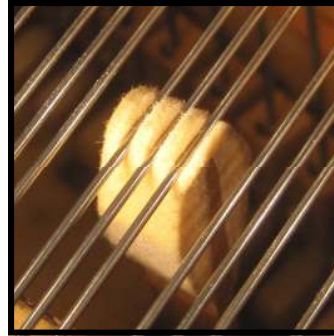


Information provided courtesy of:  
**Alan B. Hallmark, RPT**  
(804) 346-8068  
[alan.hallmark@verizon.net](mailto:alan.hallmark@verizon.net)

**The hammers on your piano have reached the point where routine maintenance in the form of filing off the outer wear layer would be of benefit.** The result would be heard in a crisper, cleaner tone.

Wear and tear on a set of hammers is measured by the depth of the cut marks in the striking surfaces (impact point) of the hammers. **In your piano the cut marks on the hammers have reached a depth where I believe it is impacting the tone of your instrument in a negative way.**

**(Side note: In conjunction with a hammer filing job, you may want to consider the scheduling of other important related maintenance adjustments and repairs such as voicing, regulation of the action, mating the hammers to the strings, etc. I will be glad to provide more information if needed.)**



### Explanation of Repair

When a hammer with deep cuts from years of hard playing (left photo) strikes the strings it has a mushy feel. The felt of the hammer, instead of delivering a clean blow to the strings, wraps around the strings upon point of impact producing a poor tone.

A hammer that has been carefully filed (right photo) strikes the strings with a clean blow, delivering maximum power to the strings without producing the weird over-tones created by a worn hammer as the felt 'fingers' wrap around the strings.



If you would like to have the hammers on your piano professionally shaped, 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.

**Alan B. Hallmark, RPT**  
(804) 346-8068