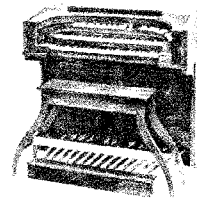


# ORGAN NOTES



## FOR SCHOBER ORPHANS AND FRIENDS

Issue # 111

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### OVERTURE

**Disclaimer:**  
***We accept no responsibility for any unfavorable consequences resulting from following our advice***

Summer is coming to an end ... it seems as though spring just arrived. Hope you all had a great spring and summer. I'm still working on my house, trying to complete a job that I thought would be completed two years ago. Well, it's coming along slowly ... very slowly.

Because of all the work, some of the articles that I want to write will just have a wait a while. I just got a special flash for my camera so that I can take close-up photos of small things, such as electronic or organ parts. I plan to rewrite the "How To" article of several years ago: "How to build an LDR"—this time with photos. (There is no compatible replacement part available commercially (Schober Part #04LDR-1) for this Light Dependent Resistor. This was an LDR using a filament BULB, not and LED, and the voltage, and light output of the bulb, etc., have to match the Schober part.)

My Recital was built by Margaret Havey. She was a smart and wonderful woman. I will eventually write up a story about her. So, hopefully I'll be done with my building work soon and I'll be able to spend more time on **Organ Notes**

In order to have an item of great interest in this issue, I'm starting to publish THE SCHEMPP ORGAN OWNER'S MANUAL. This is a great manual for the Schober Recital that Lloyd William Schempp built in 1982 and modified in 1997!

The pages will be direct copies of Lloyd's manual so that I will not make any mistakes in transcribing.  
AK

### ERROR!

In **ON 110**, I made a couple of errors transcribing Robert Ellistons' text. He writes:

Hi Alex,

I received O.N.#110 from Jack. There is a spelling mistake. Sydney has no 'i', and Pedal key-drop is 5/8", not 3/8". I e-mailed him, but am letting you know also.

Regards, Robert.

Please make the corrections, specially the key drop if you save your copies of **O.N.**

Alex

### ADS

**Disclaimer:**  
***Any deals, making of payments, receipt of payments or verifications are strictly your responsibility.***

### 1963 SCHOBER CONSOLETTA - Los Angeles County, CA:

Includes matching walnut bench, built-in speakers, EICO 30 hi-fi amplifier, spare parts, and all original factory documentation. Like new condition, plays but needs tuning. Best offer takes this vintage organ.  
Contact: [joannewilner@gmail.com](mailto:joannewilner@gmail.com)

### SCHOBER CONSOLETTA:

I have a **Schober Consoletta II** which I no longer need. I would like to find it a new home; therefore, it's free to anyone who wants it. It's not in bad shape and has speakers and a Schober power amp. It's located on Long Island, NY. If you find anyone that can use it please have them e-mail me.

Thanks, Ray Wulff  
[raywulff@optonline.net](mailto:raywulff@optonline.net)

Several other people have also contacted me about finding new homes for their Schober organs. I have offered to place ads and sometimes asked for more information. For instance, if someone says a Schober located in California, what model, etc., and a somewhat more detailed location might be advisable for an ad. In several cases I did not get a reply answering my questions. So here is a Schober that may or may not be available.

### SCHOBER RECITAL AND LESLIE SPEAKER: Long Island, N.Y.

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# THE SCHEMPP ORGAN OWNER'S MANUAL

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(For this Great Literary Work of Art)

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## INTRODUCTION

It was bound to happen sooner or later. I just had to write a manual on the Schempp Recital Organ and how it works, or at least how it is supposed to work. In order to explain some of the details of this "unique" instrument, a users manual has been dreamed up and written by the crazy constructor of the modified Schempp/Schober/Devtronix Recital Organ, referred to here as the "Schempp" Organ. First a little history.

Alexander Schreiner in Volume 1 of "Organ Voluntaries" stated (January 29, 1937): "The sustained, majestic tone of organ pipes suggests peace, quiet and the calm of the infinite. It tends to relieve that tense and nervous roughness which often accompanies the practical struggle of life. Its steady bass and diapason suggest nobility and greatness to a degree not possible with any other musical instrument".

This must apply to me today since I have wanted to have an organ for about as long as I can remember. When I first heard the Tabernacle Organ while on a trip to Salt Lake City, around 1950 or 1951, I fell in love with the organ.

Soon after I heard of a company that made Organ Kits (Schober Organ Corporation in New York City, New York, I sent for information. I decided that this would be the way I could get my organ if I was ever to get one. From the early 1960's I "Had a Dream" (Sorry Dr. Martin Luther King, but I had one too) of having my own organ.

Well, to make a long and boring story short, twenty years after I decided I needed this organ, I sent for the kits to build the beast. Have you heard of "Murphy's Law"? Well, he struck real hard right after I ordered my parts. The Organ Company that had been in business since 1955 acquired new owners and by the end of the year went bankrupt. Yep, Schober Organ Corporation was no more.

Thanks to a few caring individuals at the Schober Organ Corporation, namely Jim Ramsey, the completion of my project was made possible. The Schober folks, who cared, sent drawings and information to a company named Devtronix Organs, Inc., in Sacramento, California. The strain of the Schober Bankruptcy took its toll on Jim Ramsey. He died of a heart attack on his way home one night not too long after all this happened. I have a recording of Christmas Music he made for me, played on a Schober Organ, which he sent to me just prior to his death.

Ray Devault, owner of Devtronix, and his company saved many people from complete disaster. They contracted the pedal clavier and some other printed circuit boards from other companies and made these available to Schober customers.

Between the parts that I had, the parts I received but couldn't use, and the parts made available through Devtronix, I was able to complete my project. Later, I acquired some upgrade kits (Tone Generator/Keyers) from Devtronix, and modified the organ to improve its performance and tone. By the way, Devtronix is no longer in the organ business. They are, however, still in business and can supply parts for their organs and other equipment. This company now specializes in Musical Instrument Digital Interface (MIDI) capabilities. I guess this is where the future is in this kind of business. I believe that Schober's demise may have been in not keeping up with changes fast enough. The transistorized organ (a product of the 1960's technology). However, other organ kit builders have since gone away also, a sign of the times I guess.

## THE ORGAN CONSOLE

The wood case which houses the organ is the console, regardless of the size of the organ. The term "console model" has no meaning for organs, even though in pianos it refers to a small upright. A small organ is usually called a spinet, but there is no well defined term for one which is not small. The term full size is used to describe an organ which is the standard in pipe organs - two or more 61-note keyboards, called manuals, 32 pedals pivoted behind the player (the pedal clavier), and stop controls above the upper manual. The Schempp Recital Organ Console is 55" wide, 44" high, and 29" deep. The organ bench is 48" wide, 26 1/4" high, and 13" deep.

## MANUALS

The manuals of an organ are just like the keyboard of a piano when you look down on them from above, and anyone accustomed to playing a piano has nothing new to learn about key locations and interval distances when coming to the organ. An end view of an organ keyboard, however, is different from that of a piano. In Figure 1, A is a profile of a piano keyboard:

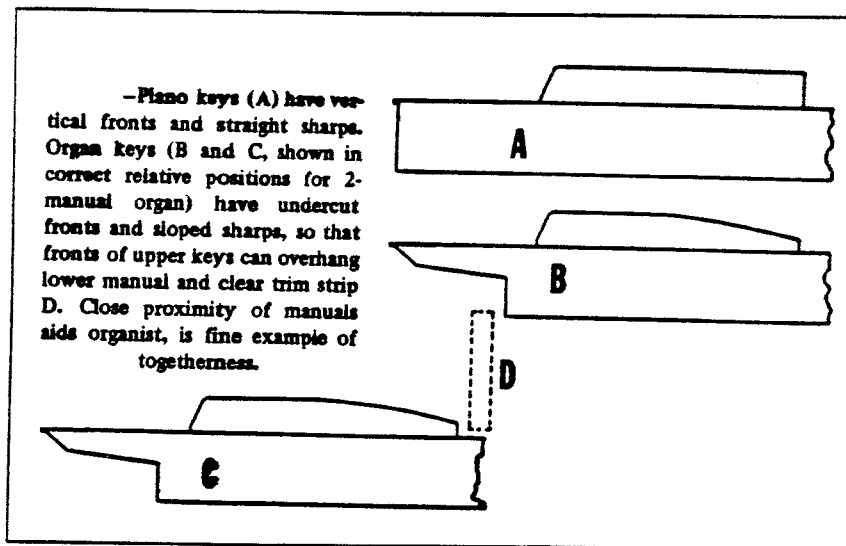


FIGURE 1 - PIANO AND ORGAN KEYS

Note the squared-off end of the white key and the horizontal top of the black. In Figure 1, B an organ manual, the downward slope of the black and front shape of the white have good reasons. They make it possible to insert a second manual C below the first in such a way that the upper somewhat overhangs the lower, bringing the two closer together vertically than they could be if piano keys were used. This helps the player when he/she jumps from one manual to the other and when, as sometimes happens, he/she uses different fingers of one hand on both keyboards (He/She implies that we are being Gender Neutral, after all in this day and age we must be politically correct). Letter D, in Figure 1, is the stop board dividing the manuals.

The lateral separation of keys is pretty well standardized, based on an octave length of slightly less than 6 1/2 inches. (The real figures range from about 5.457 to 6.464, depending on the manufacturer). Aren't you glad I threw in this vital bit of information?

This section (MANUALS) is not complete in this issue and will be continued in the next O.N.