

# ORGAN NOTES



## FOR SCHOBER ORPHANS AND FRIENDS

Issue # 112/113

Fred Henn Founder & Headmaster Emeritus

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**Schober Organ Orphans' Page:** <http://www.users.cloud9.net/~pastark/schober.html>

### OVERTURE

**Disclaimer:**

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

I hope you all had a great holiday season and that the winter was not too hard on you. Spring is on the way, finally, and I'm still trying to get the construction of my house finished. It's been a long, long time and a lot of work. That's why I am combining two issues again. I may have to do so a few more times, but some day we will be back on a steady schedule.

By the way, if you ever start an enormous project where you can only afford the materials, and loads of friends offer you help, rest assured that these friends will disappear from the face of the earth once help is needed.

The Schempp Organ Owner's Manual is continued in this issue. Again it is a direct copy of Lloyds' original pages so as to prevent me from making errors while transcribing. To make things easier, these pages will be added after the ads and they may stop in the middle of a section to be continued as of that place in the next issue.

AK

### SCHOBER TUBE TONE GENERATORS

Recently while looking over a Schober Concert tube tone generator TG-2, I noticed that the trimmer capacitors (025800) were only mechanically connected, (in series), and to the double solder lugs (1928) between them. After many years these connections could become loose and/or corroded. So, if you are having TG problems in your tube Schober, try tightening these connections.

### WARREN JONES WRITES:

Hi Alex

I have been too busy playing golf this summer to do much on the Schober, however it is starting to get cold and wet outside now. I have been reviewing my previous efforts on the airbags for the Combination Action and looking for different methods to heat seal either polyon or polyproylene. The leakage has increased with time and usage so less tablets respond now than just after the bags were installed. I believe micro holes have started in the bond area from

flexure on the bags which probably could have been prevented by applying a coat of PVC glue. I did this later on some bags I sent to David Bruce in Alice Springs, Aust. but have heard nothing as to how they worked.

I have been doing a little research on the Internet for material and found a fairly cheap impulse heat sealer that should be much better at sealing without the rubbing of the solder iron tip. An alternate is a more expensive roller heat sealer. I tried that method originally but with a very small wheel, this device has a 2.5 inch wheel.

I don't want to remove the stop tablets from my operating organ just to try some new bags, so would like to get a complete set of stops. I don't know if that is feasible but should like to at least try a want ad in case someone is parting out a Schober Theatre Organ.

### ADS

**Disclaimer:**

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

### WANTED

Full set of Stop Tablets for Schober Theatre Organ. Wanted to evaluate replacement of air bags for Combination Action. Will pay shipping and reasonable price. Contact Warren W. Jones at [wjones2132@aol.com](mailto:wjones2132@aol.com)

### SCHOBER RECITAL

FREE in Monmouth County, New Jersey  
Near Jersey shore, off Route 138, Garden State Parkway  
Exit 98

Contact: Original Builder - Charles Schelleng  
Phone: 732-681-6959

[ceschelleng@optonline.net](mailto:ceschelleng@optonline.net)

### SCHOBER THEATRE ORGAN

FREE, In N.S.W. Australia. Built it in 1981 & it is complete but needs some attention.

Contact: Doug Marion.

[djmarion@tadaust.org.au](mailto:djmarion@tadaust.org.au)

### **SCHOBER CONSOLETTA (TUBE!)**

An original Consolette Schober complete with amplifier, Leslie speaker bench, and two testing devices. Available in Prairie Village, Kansas.

Contact: Byron N Baker

Phone: 913 262 2335

Byron\_n@yahoo.com

### **SCHOBER THEATRE ORGAN MANUAL**

I have a three-ring binder (about 2" big) with a lot of information on the Schober Theatre Organ. *If there is anyone out there who would like this manual, I will send it to them. There are no costs involved.*

Contact: Lloyd Schempp

schempp@comcast.net

### **NEEDED**

Pre-amplifier/Vibrato board for a Schober Recital Organ if anyone might have one to spare. The Printed Circuit board number is 11407-A.

Lloyd Schempp

schempp@comcast.net

### **NEEDED**

Keyboard alignment tool for my Pratt & Reed keyboards.

Bob Fales

robertfales@comcast.net

### **WANTED**

Original Schober TUBE Reverbatape. TR-1 for my Schober Museum. Will trade for transistor version TR-3.

AK (Publisher/Editor)

### **FOR SALE: Schober Recital Organ**

Price for everything as below: \$250 obo.

Pickup is in the Southwest Florida area. No shipping

This organ is in "as is" condition. It is playable but needs works. If you like to do things in electronics or want to learn same you can make yourself a pretty good organ. It could also be used by a Schober owner as a source of parts.

Two-manual, 32 note pedal, electronic organ built from kits. Console, pedal and bench are on casters. Original specification:

**Great:** 16': Contra Violone; 8': Principal, Flute, Dulciana, Trumpet; 4': Octave, Chimney Flute; 2 2/3' Twelfth; 2': Fifteenth; Mixture III; S-G

**Swell:** 16': Bourdon, Contra Fagotto; 8': Geigen Diapason, Stopped Flute, Gamba, Trompette, Clarinet, Oboe; 4': Concert Flute, Clarion; 2 2/3': Nazard; 2': Principal, Flautino; S-S 16', 4'; G-S (yes G-S) 8'

**Pedal:** 16': Contra Bass, Bourdon, Fagotto; 8': Principal, Trumpet; 4': Choral Bass, Clarion, 2': "Zink" (reed-like); S-P, G-P

Other Controls:

Pedal Volume Control: Soft, Normal, Loud choice on Great, Both, Swell

Vibrato Control: Light, Medium, Full choice on Great, Both, Swell

The following items are included in addition to the organ **at no extra charge**:

1. Three kits to build tone generators and an improved keying system. The Schober keying system was the one really weak part—too low voltage, thus too easily subject to atmospheric contamination. These kits claim to deal with that problem. Full documentation on building the generators and installing in the organ included.

2. "Library of Stops": The existing "PC (printed circuit) boards" installed in the organ, each with the circuitry for a particular stop sound, can be replaced, as desired, by using the blank cards and wiring them to create new sound cards. Blank PC boards and instructions included.

3. Two standing speakers.

4. A reverberation board, plus two bookshelf speakers. The board is mounted on a single piece of wood together with the organ amplifiers to the main speakers. Two microphones are also included since they are used in the reverberation setup.

5. Complete documentation for the Recital Organ which I used building the organ, including the important "Operation & Service Manual".

6. Beyond that, there are various electronic parts (resistors, etc.), wire, various kinds of cables, etc.

Other Points:

1. The combination action never did work properly. Only the cancel button worked. There is a complete circuit schematic included as well as a long letter from a man who was able to fix such systems—his letter has ideas on what all to try. A good magnifying glass is a great help.

2. At some point the stop tab for the Geigen Diapason broke. It has since been mended.

3. The Schober company closed its doors in February of 1981. Ray DeVault's company—Devtronix Organs—did a yeoman's job of helping Schober customers who were left in the lurch. Ray passed away in 2000. All his company's inventory went to Mark Voorhees in Phoenix. He helped me with several problems. I have recently tried to locate him/his company "Classical Organs, Inc." without success.

If there are questions after reviewing this information sheet please call me, Richard Seymour, at 239-514-4605 Eastern Daylight/Standard Time.

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The standard organ manual has 61 keys, C to C representing five octaves of 12 notes each, plus a top C. An organ key has no "touch" in the piano sense; it makes no difference whether the key is pressed hard, softly, or at a high or low velocity.

In all two-manual organs the lower manual is called the Great or Accompaniment and the upper is the Swell or Solo. If there are three manuals, the lowest is the Choir. On four-manual organs the upper manual is the Solo (Choir, Great, Swell and Solo respectively). On the Tabernacle Organ, which has five-manuals, the uppermost manual is called the antiphonal.

In pipe organs and in some electronics all manuals slope slightly toward the Great. On the Schempp Organ there is no slope on the manuals.

Why should an organ have two or more manuals when the finest Steinway piano has only one? It is because the organ is a multi-voiced instrument and at any moment the organist arranges matters so different voices or combinations of them are called forth by each manual. He/She may then play the melody on the manual having the more prominent voices and the accompaniment on that with the more subdued ones: or he/she may play entirely on one manual, then immediately shift to another to obtain a total change in tone color without delay.

#### PEDALS

The pedal clavier is actually a keyboard just like the manuals except for its dimensions. It always begins with low C, and it consists of black and white notes in the same order as the manual keyboards. A full-size organ has 32 pedals if its pedal clavier is standard, two and a half octaves, C through G.

The pedal board approved by the AGO (American Guild of Organists) has keys with visible length of 27 inches and is both concave and radiating. The concavity means that the keys at the middle are closer to the floor than those at the ends, conforming to the position of the foot as it is swung from side to side. Radiation means that the heel ends of the pedals (the ends not under the organ console) come together toward the center, conforming to the line of the organist's foot as he/she pivots his/her legs from the hips. Notice I am Gender Neutral again, can't offend any feminists.

#### INTERMANUAL COUPLERS

Each of the organ keyboards has its own group of stops, which are different from those available on any other keyboard and can be used singly or in any combination. Sometimes, however, an organist wants to use the stops of one keyboard on another, in addition to those normally allocated to the keyboard on which he/she is playing. He/She can transfer the Stops from one key-board to another by using intermanual couplers.

The engraving on the coupler tablet has very definite and easily understood meaning. Swell to Great means Swell voices transferred to Great Keys. The stop tablets for the intermanual couplers on the Schempp Organ are black and are as follows:

Swell to Pedal 8' - Located with the Pedal Stop Tablets - When this tablet is down, any stops in the swell division which are on (tablets down) will be heard when you play the pedals. The 8' designation means these stops will be heard at the same pitch register as when they are played with swell keys.

Great to Pedal 8' - Located with the Pedal Stop Tablets - This coupler operates just like the previous one except that the sound it brings down to the pedals are

those selected from among the great stops.

Great to Swell 8' - Located with the Swell Stop Tablets - This stop couples the great stops to the swell keyboard and at the same pitches of the great stop.

Swell to Great 8' - Located with the Great Stop Tablets - This stop couples the swell stops to the great keyboard and at the same pitches of the swell stop.

#### INTRAMANUAL COUPLERS

The second kind of coupler, the intramanual, has its entire effect on one division or keyboard of the instrument. The stop tablets for the intramanual couplers on the Schempp Organ are also black and are as follows:

Swell to Swell 16' - Located with the Swell Stop Tablets - Adds stops from the swell manual to the stops in the swell manual only at a pitch of an octave lower than whatever the normal pitch of a stop may be.

Swell to Swell 4' - Located with the Swell Stop Tablets - Adds stops from the swell manual to the stops in the swell manual only at a pitch of an octave higher than whatever the normal pitch of a stop may be.

#### VIBRATO

Varying the pitch of each tone cyclically generates what is known as vibrato. Cyclic variations in loudness of a tone is known as tremolo.

The tremolo or vibrato is never to be used when accompanying congregational singing.

The Vibrato Tablet on the Schempp Organ is a white tablet and is located with the swell stop tablets.

The Schempp Organ has two switches located on the bass end of the stop board which control some vibrato functions. These switches are:

VIBRATO: SWELL-BOTH-GREAT Switch - This switch is normally left in its center BOTH position, so that when you press down the VIBRATO tablet vibrato is applied to tones of both manuals. (Vibrato is never applied to pedal tones as such, though if you couple manual stops down to the pedals by using one of the pedal couplers, any vibrato on those manual stops will be heard when they are played with the pedals).

If you want vibrato applied only the Swell tones, move the switch to the SWELL position; there will be no vibrato on the Great. And vice versa with respect to the Great. Vibrato is turned off entirely only by flipping up the VIBRATO tab.

VIBRATO: LIGHT-MEDIUM-FULL Switch - This adjusts the intensity or depth of vibrato. The speed can only be adjusted internally on the Preamplifier-Vibrato Unit.

#### SWELL SHOES (EXPRESSION CONTROL)

Swell shoes are used as a volume control on electronic organs. In small organs a single swell shoe is the volume control for the whole organ. In larger ones there is often a separate swell shoe for each manual, with a pedal-clavier volume also assigned to one or the other.

On the Schempp Organ the two swell shoes control the volumes of the two manuals