





Piano Tuning Methods and Tools

by

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METHODS ↓	TOOLS ↓					
	Tuning Hammer 	Sound Source 	Mute Strip 	Wedge Mutes 	Papp's Mutes (Only needed for Upright Pianos) 	ETD 
Aural - Use your ear to decide if a string's pitch, or interval's beats, are appropriate.	Tools required will depend on whether you will use a mute strip or tune open unisons as you go.					
★ Use a Mute Strip - Mute off all but one string for each note.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
★ Use Open Unisons - Use wedge mutes to mute off individual strings and tune all strings of a note before moving on.	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Electronic Tuning Device, ETD - Use a computer or electronic device to decide if a string's pitch needs to be corrected.	✓			✓	✓	✓

Skills Required

Method	SKILL		
	Ear	Stability	Unisons
Aural with Mute Strip	The better your ear is, the better your tunings will be.	Medium	Medium
Aural with Open Unisons		High†	High
Using an ETD	Low*	Medium	Medium

*A good tuner will check the ETD using their ear, but they don't have to, unless they are trying for a high quality tuning.

†The better your stability; the less corrections you will have to do to your unisons.

Tools

Here is a list of the different types of tools listed above, together with links to where you can find them, and approximate prices.

TOOL	TYPE LINK COST (USD, July 2016)	DESCRIPTION
Tuning Hammers	Gooseneck http://www.vandaking.com/piano-tuning-hammers.html \$30 - \$40USD	Very light weight, no removable tip; you can not change tip for different pin sizes, or to find a better fitting tip. Not recommended.
	Student http://www.ebay.com/bhp/piano-tuning-wrench \$1 - \$30USD	No removable tip. Not recommended.
	Professional, with removable tip but not extendable neck. http://store.howtotunepianos.com/?product=professional-tuning-hammer \$90 - \$100USD	Tip can be changed for a better fit, or to tune pins of different sizes. Recommended for beginners.
	Professional, with extendable neck. http://www.vandaking.com/piano-tuning-hammers.html \$150USD	Removable tip. Extendable neck to change leverage and/or get into small spaces.
	Dan Levitan's C-Lever http://levitantuninglevers.com/professional.html \$300USD	Large hammer that minimizes bending of pin during turning of pin.
	Fujan Tuning Hammers http://www.fujanproducts.com/ \$325USD	Carbon fibre shaft minimizes shaft deflection during tuning.
	Impact Hammer http://www.reyburntools.com/cyberhammer.html \$500 - \$600USD	Loose head allows hammer to "knock" pin and helps to make small pin movements easier.
Mutes	Rubber Wedge Mute http://store.howtotunepianos.com/?product_cat=tools \$1-\$2USD	For muting strings.
	Felt Wedge Mute http://www.vandaking.com/s-201-mutes-temperament-strips.html \$5-\$6USD	Same as rubber mute, but felt.
	Mute Strip http://store.howtotunepianos.com/?product=felt-mute-strip \$7-\$8USD	For muting many strings at once.
	Papp's Mute http://store.howtotunepianos.com/?product=papps-treble-mutes \$10-\$11USD	For muting strings on uprights where there is no room for a strip or wedge mute.
Fork	A440 Fork http://store.howtotunepianos.com/?product=a440-tuning-fork \$15 - \$20USD	For setting the first A4 note when tuning aurally.

Links

Below you will find links to places where you can find tools and resources that will help you learn more about tuning pianos.

Have fun, and please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions. Tuning a piano can be a complex and confusing task. I have been teaching people to tune pianos since 2006 and I have identified many ways to make learning to tune a piano, fun and rewarding, with a minimal amount of frustration.

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Resources	LINK	CONTENT
Lessons, Books, Videos, Tools, Courses	howtotunepianos.com	Videos and lessons that will help you learn more about how a piano is tuned. Courses, videos, and books for sale.
Tools, parts, books, supplies.	pianophile.com	Piano tuning and repair tools, parts, and supplies. Located in Quebec, Canada You must be a technician with three references in order to purchase from this site and get the technician discount. Enrolment in a course offered by howtotunepianos.com exempts you from the three references requirement.
	schaffpiano.com	Schaff Piano Supply is located in the US and sells only to technicians and music retailers.
	vandaking.com	Piano tuning and repair tools, parts, and supplies. Located is US. Sells to the public.
Electronic Tuning Devices - FREE	https://www.tunelab-world.com/tl97.html	Tunelab97 is the sharewrae version of the popular Tunelab Pro software program
	http://piano-tuner.org/	Entropy Piano Tuner is a free software that minimizes the out-of-tuness, or entropy, of a piano.
	http://www.dirksprojects.nl/index.php?Lan=english&Page=Tuner/piano_tuner_40.php	Dirk's Piano Tuner. A free software program that requires you to record every note into the piano and then calculates the best tuning, based on an electronic algorithm, similar to Entropy Piano Tuner.
Electronic Tuning Devices - PAID	https://www.tunelab-world.com/tlp.html	The paid and modern version of Tunelab97. \$330 - \$400USD, iOS, Windows, Android (July 2016)
	http://www.accu-tuner.com/	The Sanderson Accutuner is made by one of the oldest piano tuning software companies around. Their original model was analog! It comes in its own case. It is not a downloadable software product. \$1600 - \$1700USD (July 2016)
	https://www.reyburn.com/	The Rayburn Cybertuner is a software program for tuning pianos. \$1400USD, iOS only (July 2016)
	http://www.veritune.com/	Verituner is also a popular software product for tuning pianos. \$600 - \$900USD, iOS, Windows, Windows Mobile (July 2016)