

Dealing With Loose Tuning Pins

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Fixing loose tuning pins requires increasing the friction between the pin and the pin block.

This can be done one of two ways:

- 1) Make the pin larger, or
- 2) Add a liquid that will increase the friction

Making the pin larger can be done in the following ways:

- 1) Tapping the pin in deeper. Do NOT tap the coils onto the plate. Always leave room between coils and plate. Tapping pins will cause them to slip. Use a locking tap to reduce slippage during tapping.
- 2) Remove pin and insert a shim. Could be sandpaper (sand side out) or some shops sell aluminum shims (not recommended).
- 3) Replace with a larger pin, two sizes larger.

Liquids that increase friction:

- 1) Cyanoacrylate or CA glue. Dries fast. Minimal mess. Don't close the lid while drying. A white mist will form on the inside of the lid.
- 2) "Pin Dope" also known as glycerol, causes the wood to swell. It takes a long time to soak in and dry, about two weeks, and can leave stains on the plate.

In both applications the plate needs to be horizontal.

IMPORTANT: Note the pattern of loose pins. If it is in a line, the pin block may be cracked. Inserting larger pins or shims will just make the crack larger. Use CA glue instead.