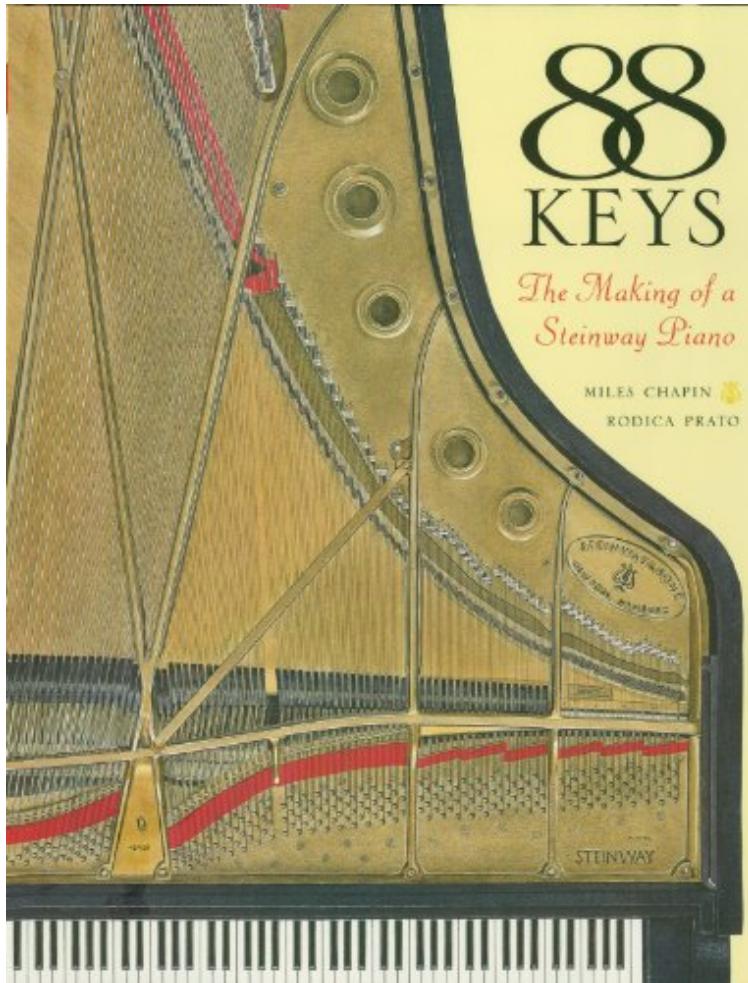


(Free and download) 88 Keys - The Making of a Steinway Piano

88 Keys - The Making of a Steinway Piano

Miles Chapin
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Miles Chapin : 88 Keys - The Making of a Steinway Piano before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised 88 Keys - The Making of a Steinway Piano:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating readBy telsynthMiles Chapin does his best to bridge the divide between novice and knowledgeable reader. I found this book fascinating and loved the illustrations. There are fair criticisms: it should have been at least twice the length, with many more illustrations, or even photos. At times, Chapin assumes you know certain tenets of piano construction or acoustics. The part of the book explaining the manufacturing of a piano plate was fascinating, but I had to read it 3 times to understand what he was saying. Chapin shows remarkable knowledge, especially for a non-pianist and a non-technician, but he could be more articulate in explaining in simple concise ways (like Robert Krulwich, who can explain difficult things in the simplest of ways). Chapin starts with an explanation of the family history, and exemplifies how instrumental the Steinway family was in the evolution of the piano. The book then moves into how Steinways are manufactured. Steinway has

developed many features unique to their pianos, and it's remarkable how quickly they did it (most of it between 1855 and 1885). This book attempts to do what few books do, and with some effort, it could be much better. I hope Chapin will expand this book some day--he has gift that few people could contribute. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good SellerBy Rebecca L. Perfect condition. 54 of 57 people found the following review helpful. Oversized Pamphlet, inadequate detail and diagramsBy Yogi Trout Bear This is fundamentally an oversized pamphlet. It is double-spaced with wide margins and still only has about 130 pages including many illustrations. Steinway has a CD-rom, which one can obtain quite easily, which covers many Steinway construction topics with better illustrations (including video) than this pamphlet. Anyone with any knowledge at all of piano construction (viewers of the Steinway CD- rom video, and a couple of manufacturers' brochures) will be disappointed in this book. The book contains no photographs. Hard to believe, eh? The illustrations are excellent, but do not seem to be integrated with the text and very few are diagrammatic showing how things work, just show how they are, if you are lucky. Many topics are described without detailed reference and explanation with an illustration or diagram. E.g.. Pg. 15 clavichord mechanism is described verbally, without diagrams. Pg 64: English style ... "the hammer heads are placed at the far end of the mechanisms and move forward when the keys are struck." I am clueless as to what this would look like. " a glimpse at any contemporary grand piano keyboard will..." How about a picture? Pg 48-49 Re: matched veneers: " a careful look at the case of any natural wood-finished Steinway will show you how good they are." No photographs or illustrations. Pg 52 re Scales. "these characteristic dimensions differentiate pianos from different makers more than any other technical element." Perhaps I do not understand the statement, but a Steinway salesperson will point out three distinct differentiations between Steinway and its competitors, which are technically related in my mind. I was abhorred to look down at the page number, 62, half way through the book, and realized I had only learned a few things of interest and had not learned anything of several topics which I had assumed would be covered. While I did not keep track of the time, I felt I had only been reading a short while. On several occasions the author begins on what appears an interesting topic, but he either aborts early or has no illustrative diagrams and I cannot follow, despite very good grades in science classes from a prestigious private etc. Pg. 56. He starts talking about harmonics, but has no diagrams, and again, if one does not know harmonics will probably just be confused. He talks about sound board gluing, but again no illustrative diagrams or dimensions on final cut. How thick is a soundboard? Bridge: verbally describes making one, but no diagrams or detailed illustrations. I will stop with the last. One thing I would certainly expect from a book on making a piano is a detailed explanation with diagrams of how the action works. Pg. 71 (this paragraph is unbelievable): "A model of a piano's action is a fascinating thing to behold. I used to play with one for hours on end ..." "The answer is that the piano's action has evolved over years of experimentation." That's it! No explanation of how the mechanism of the action actually works. One very nice still illustration, but no explanation or additional diagrams. If this book does not sell on , it will not sell anywhere, because I would never have bought this oversized pamphlet at a bookstore. Sorry.

(Amadeus). More than 500 people are involved in the creation of just one of the world's greatest pianos, the Steinway. From the selection and aging of wood to the delicate voicing of the finished instrument, this special reissue of 88 Keys The Making of a Steinway Piano relates the story behind the instrument's intricate formation, as told by Miles Chapin, a fifth-generation descendant of Steinway's founder, Henry Engelhard Steinway. Readers will learn about how the piano gets its trademark curve, the "belly men" who fit the metal harp to the wooden frame, the carvers who shape the piano's legs and pedal lyre, and the many other craftspeople who have perfected their specialized contributions to the finished product. They'll also get an insider's look into the company's history against a timeline of major worldwide music events, and into the roles of piano greats, including Anton Rubinstein and Sergei Rachmaninoff, in contributing to its prominence. A glossary of technical terms is included. For music lovers, aspiring musicians, and pianists everywhere.

.com The piano may well be the world's most versatile instrument, and the Steinway is the United States's most celebrated manufacturer. This handsome volume takes you inside the process of building a Steinway, from the selection of the woods (yellow birch, sugar maple, sugar pine, yellow poplar, Sitka spruce, and, for the exteriors, various hardwoods) through the construction of the soundboard and keyboard, from the manufacture of the piano's rim and case through the building of the metal harp that holds the strings, and to the final assembly and finishing. Along the way are sections on history and physics (good tone doesn't just happen) and a useful glossary. 88 Keys is a fascinating and eminently readable book for anyone with an interest in the art of the piano. From Kirkus s Arts journalist and actor Chapin is unusually well qualified to write a book on the Steinway: His great-great-grandfather founded the company that produces it. But unfortunately, Chapin's efforts fall somewhat flat. The making of a grand piano is a complicated process. When that piano is going to bear the name Steinway, the process is even more laborious--the Steinway is one of the few pianos in the world that are still completely handmade. It takes over 500 people and several years to make one, and in the 150-odd years since the company's founding, the process has changed very little, as Chapin emphasizes repeatedly. Henry Engelhard Steinway began his career in piano-making in southern

Germany. Fleeing the political and economic upheavals of the 1840s, he arrived in New York City in 1850. Drawing on his own skills and those of his sons, he made the Steinway the benchmark of fine instruments. (The family finally sold its interest in the firm in 1972.) As Chapin readily admits, at least some of the firm's success was the product of marketing genius, as the company associated itself with the pianistic legends of the time: Anton Rubinstein, Ignace Paderewski, Sergei Rachmaninoff. Chapin takes readers through the long process by which wood and other materials become a vehicle for music. Along the way, he sprinkles interesting bits of piano history: Hungarian piano maker Paul von Janko devised a piano with knobs instead of keys; ivory is the one component that has been replaced by modern plastics; the instrument must withstand 70,000 pounds of tension from its strings. Rodica Prato's elegant drawings evoke a Victorian era in which every living room held a piano. Regrettably, Chapin recounts his tale in rather pedantic prose, all the while puffing for the Steinway company. The result is an occasionally interesting volume that reads too much like an oversize advertising pamphlet. -- Copyright copy;1997, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. About the AuthorMiles Chaplin is a successful freelance journalist and screenwriter, and a fifth-generation descendant of Steinway's founder, Henry Engelhard Steinway. Rodica Prato is a professional illustrator.