

Fandrich-Rhodes Weightbench Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q: I prefer to place weights on the capstan side of the balance rail instead of removing weights. Will the program help me do this?

A: Yes. Simply position a sample weight on the capstan side of the key. Move the sample weight until the target key weight is seen on the digital scale.

Q: Why don't I just slide lead weights around on the keys until I achieve the correct down weight? That's the way the factory does it ... and I wouldn't have to buy your hardware and program.

A: The factory is working with new keys which have no installed weights. When you are rebuilding an action, the previously installed weights make the factory process more difficult. Besides, what you really are purchasing is a complete kit solution which greatly simplifies precise measuring, visualizing, and correcting downweight, upweight, and friction.

Q: I'm pretty handy with Excel. Can I just buy your WB hardware and create my own spreadsheet to do the math?

A: Certainly! We sell the hardware -- or the program -- separately for 2/3rds the price of the complete kit. What you will find, however, is there are a lot of subtle touches necessary to make the combination work smoothly. Nate Foss, who wrote the program, spent about 300 hours perfecting it, and he based his program on the Excel spreadsheet created by John Rhodes who likewise spent several hundred hours in its development. The hardware is equally subtle and highly perfected. You're probably better off tuning a half-dozen pianos than spending the several weeks it would take to create the program.

Q: I'm pretty handy building fixtures. Can I just buy your WB program and create my own hardware?

A: See prior question.

Q: Does Weightbench run under Windows 98, or on the Mac?

A: No. It requires Windows XP, Service Pack 2 (SP2) or greater.

Q: Does Weightbench run under Windows Vista?

A: Yes. Contact us if you have difficulties.

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