

# HUBBARD HARPSICHORDS, INC.

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## SINGLE-MANUAL HARPSICHORD

*English bentside spinet*

*after BAKER HARRIS, 1765*

*in both finished and kit form*

### PRICES AND OPTIONS

September 29, 2007

## ENGLISH SINGLE-MANUAL HARPSICHORD

*after Baker Harris, 1765*



Inscription: Baker Harris Londini Fecit 1765

The bentside spinet as a type seems to have been developed around 1630 by an Italian harpsichord maker, Girolamo Zenti. The design cleverly combines the compactness of a virginal with the graceful curve of the larger harpsichord. By the 18th century, bentside spinets were made and to be found nearly everywhere in Europe and served for all sorts of home music-making and musical instruction. No composer or performer could have been unfamiliar with them.

Seated at the bentside spinet, the player is directly in front of the wrestplank, just as with the harpsichord. However, the bentside spinet is distinguished from the harpsichord in that the strings and spine run diagonally away from the player and are not parallel to the key levers. Bentside spinets almost invariably had only one choir of strings, typically at 8' pitch. Although many configurations are possible, the design that Baker Harris adopted causes the strings to be plucked much closer to their center points than are the strings of the wing-shaped harpsichord. As a result, his instruments produce a strong and sustained tone, but one which is darker and less brilliant than the harpsichord.

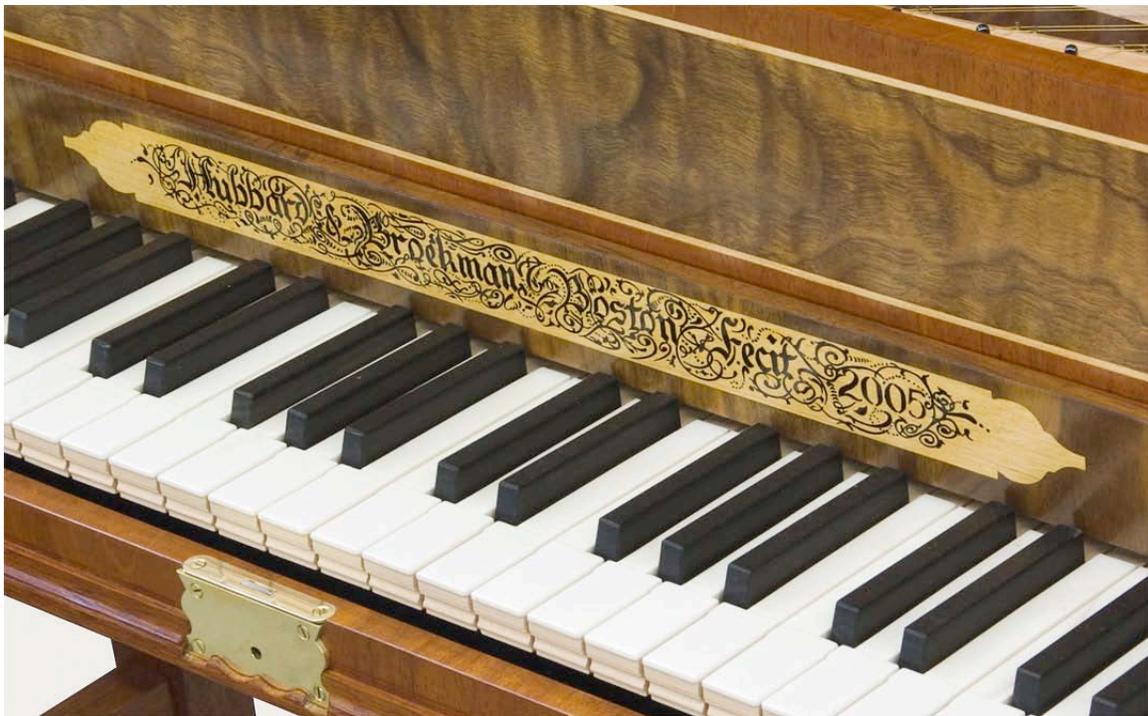
The economy of space allowed by the bentside spinet makes it an ideal instrument for musicians with limited room – one need only provide as much wall space as the instrument asks (72", 1.8 m). The five-octave compass makes it a useful study and practice instrument appropriate to virtually the entire literature of the harpsichord as



Baker Harris Londini Fecit 1765

well as the early classical period. Its sound, rich and sonorous, is especially suited to chamber music and the music of the English and Italian virginalists.

Our spinet is a very close copy of the 1765 Baker Harris instrument restored by Frank Hubbard in 1975. At the time he was producing the drawings to which this design is still made, Frank Hubbard had the incredible luxury of having only to turn around from the drafting table to consult or measure the original. In our standard offering we reproduce the Baker Harris classic decor of figured walnut panels on the case and in the keyboard well, outlined with maple stringing and walnut or mahogany crossbanding. The lid, turned-leg trestle stand, music desk, and other small parts are of solid mahogany. Variations in wood species to accommodate the taste of the owner are also possible. We give it a French polish finish.



Reproductions of original Baker Harris hardware are used on the lid and flap: brass strap hinges for the lid, and butterfly hinges joining the keyboard cover to the lid. A brass "S" hook, eye and doily secure the lid to the case at the bentside.

Following the pattern of the original, the keyboard for this instrument is made with bone-covered naturals (the original used elephant ivory) set off at the fronts of the keys by a maple moulding in typical English style complemented by ebony-capped black-stained hardwood sharps. We also offer a less expensive option of white plastic-covered naturals.

The spinet is strung in brass throughout and designed to be pitched at  $a^1 = 415$  Hz. A transposing keyboard (FF-e<sup>'''</sup>, less FF#, 59 notes) is available as an option for those who must tune their spinets to  $a^1 = 440$ .



Baker Harris livery



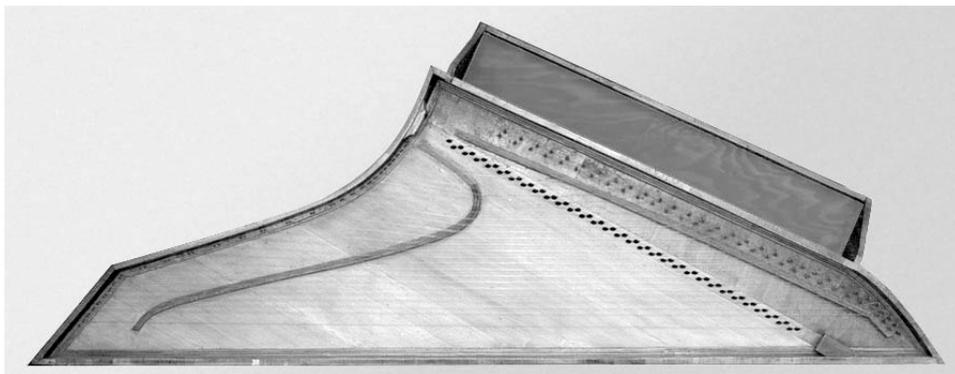
Custom treatments of the style are possible, too

The instrument is fitted with reproduction wood jacks with tongues pierced for either feather plectra (crescent mortises) or Delrin plectra (rectangular mortises). The jacks run in a reproduction built-up box register. We also offer the less expensive option of plastic jacks set in modern upper and lower registers.

In 1986, two earlier (1763) Baker Harris spinets came into the shop for restoration. At that time, the work was done by Hubbard Technical Director, Hendrik Broekman. In addition to the three Harris spinets, the Hubbard shop has also restored an ornate and much altered anonymous English spinet, School of Hitchcock, as well as a 1734 Josephus Mahoon spinet.

*Recording of interest*

Demonstration CD, Hendrik Broekman, harpsichord. Music of Purcell,  
Telemann, J.S. Bach. U.S. Postpaid \$ 10



Plan view of bent-side spinet by Joseph Mahoon, London, 1734.

The proportions vary slightly from those used by Baker Harris, which results in a somewhat different sound, but the general layout is absolutely standard.

## ENGLISH SINGLE-MANUAL HARPSICHORD

### *after Baker Harris, 1765*

#### *Specifications*

Range: 60 notes, Five octaves, FF-f<sup>'''</sup> (less FF#), a' = 415 Hz  
 Disposition: 1 x 8', strung in brass throughout  
 Dimensions: length 6'; width 2' 6" (treble corner to spine)  
 Instrument weight: 70 lbs.  
 Shipping weight: 200 lbs. crated

#### *Price*

With Baker Harris veneered decor including reproductions  
 of original hardware, reproduction wood jacks and  
 built-up box register, keyboard with bone-covered  
 naturals \$ 16,750

#### *Options*

a. Delrin® jack credit	\$ -750
b. Imitation bone naturals credit	\$ -500
c. Veneered spine	\$ 800
d. Cordura nylon carrying cover	\$ 480
e. Transposing keyboard; FF-e <sup>'''</sup> (less FF#), a' = 415 Hz, 440 Hz	\$ 200
f. Matching bench in mahogany	\$ 1050



Finished bentside spinet after Baker Harris, fitted with Hubbard Delrin jacks.  
 Optional matching bench shown. [Newton, MA]

## ENGLISH SINGLE-MANUAL HARPSICHORD KIT

*after Baker Harris, 1765*

Our BENTSIDE SPINET KIT supplies all of the materials required to make a handsome replica of a 1765 Baker Harris instrument. We have followed the details of the original with extreme care. By patiently assembling the materials and paying close attention to the drawings, instructions and photographs, the kit builder should be able to make an extremely close copy of the Baker Harris spinet.

18th century English harpsichords were more often veneered than painted. Veneers supplied with the BENTSIDE SPINET KIT enable the maker to reproduce the Baker Harris classic décor of figured walnut panels on the case and in the keyboard well, outlined with maple stringing and mahogany crossbanding. Walnut veneer is supplied for the inside edge of the case, the jack rail and the name batten. The lid, trestle stand, music desk and other smaller parts, including mouldings for the case and lid, are provided in solid mahogany.



Applying veneer with veneer hammer and hot glue is the traditional method and simple to learn.

The keyboard supplied with this kit has dark hardwood sharps and imitation bone naturals. For those who prefer a bone-covered keyboard, please see the Options listed on the Price List, following. Reproductions of Baker Harris solid brass strap hinges for the lid, and butterfly hinges for joining the keyboard cover to the lid are also available at additional cost.

Phosphor bronze music wire is offered to those builders who wish to tune their spinets at  $a' = 440$  instead of  $a' = 415$ . It is also possible to fit the instrument with a transposing keyboard.

*"If the kit is carefully assembled, well-voiced, and handsomely finished, the result equals the product of any professional maker and resembles its prototype very closely."*

Frank Hubbard

# ENGLISH SINGLE-MANUAL HARPSICHORD KIT

## *after Baker Harris, 1765*

### *Specifications*

Range: 60 notes, 5 octaves, FF-f<sup>'''</sup> chromatic, less FF# (a' = 415 Hz)

Disposition: 1 x 8'

Dimensions: length 6'; width 2' 6" (treble corner to spine)

Instrument weight (exclusive of stand): 70 lbs.

Shipping weight:

Kit with Pre-Cut Parts, 130 lbs. (boxed, approximate)

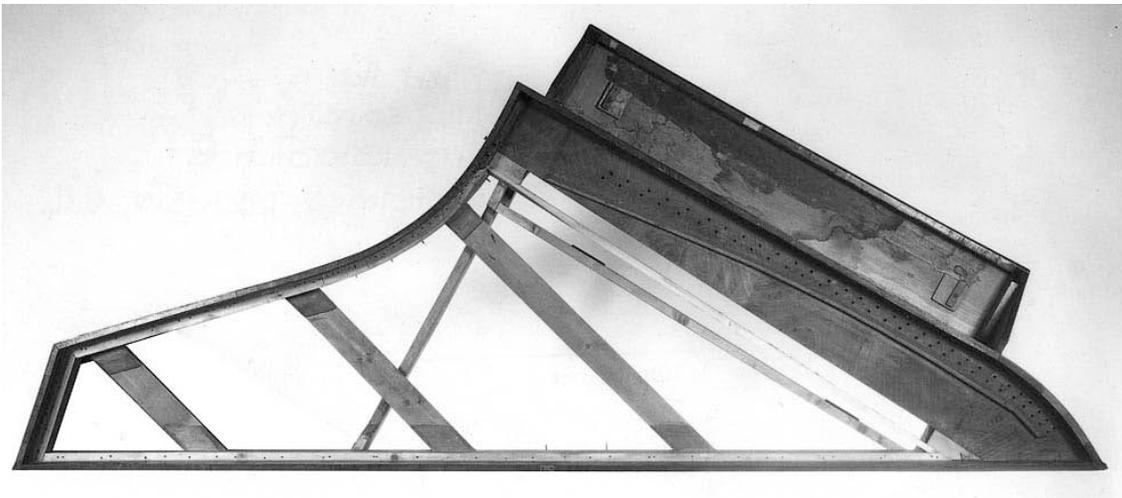
Kit with Assembled Case, 250 lbs. (crated, approximate)

### *Prices*

Kit with Pre-Cut Parts (Delrin® jacks)	\$ 5,250
Pre-Cut Kit with Case Assembled	\$ 6,550
Kit with Case Assembled and Soundboard Installed	\$ 8,900
Assembled Kit (All decorative veneering accomplished)	\$ 12,250
Finished Instrument - Please see prior page	

### *Options*

(a) Keyboard with bone-covered naturals	\$ 500
(b) Tapered soundboard (included in Soundboard-Installed and Assembled Kits)	\$ 75
(c) Baker Harris reproduction hardware	\$ 450
(d) Cordura nylon carrying cover	\$ 440
(e) Transposing keyboard (FF-e <sup>'''</sup> chromatic, less FF#)	\$ 125
(f) 18th C. English bench kit	\$ 450
(g) Builder's workshop - rent-a-bench/day - Please see below (p. 10)	\$ 125



Baker Harris 1765 Plan view from top

## Spinnet Kits with Pre-Cut Parts

All wooden parts are made in our shop from the highest quality woods, selected for appropriate structural soundness, consistency, and density. All parts are accurately dimensioned and shaped, with miters, dados, rabbets and mortises cut and joints prepared for gluing where appropriate. The wrestplank is given particularly careful attention to ensure its suitability and longevity. We drill the wrestpin holes in each wrestplank using a proven metal template - a very important feature. Decorative mouldings are cut into all appropriate parts. Critical joints are tested and hand-adjusted for precise fit just before the kit is packed. The kit contains all materials needed to make a complete instrument, including appropriate veneer, the lid, flap, lid stick, music desk, fallboard and stand - everything except the alcohol solvent necessary for the included flake shellac! In addition we include a full set of tuning and voicing tools to help make the job of musical finishing easier.



Pre-cut French double kit shown (above & left)



### Pre-Cut Kit with Case Assembled

This is the Pre-Cut kit, as above, with the rim of the instrument (spine, cheek, bentside, and tail) glued together. The belly rails, wrestplank (prepared as above with the addition of the nut) and nameboard have been fitted and glued in, the bottom installed and trimmed, reinforcing keys cut and fitted into the bentside joints.

### Pre-Cut Kit with Case Assembled, Soundboard Installed

Here the case-assembled kit, above, has the interior bracing, soundboard and soundboard mouldings added. The soundboard is dried, fitted and marked out for its bridge and ribs. It is then tapered and the aforementioned parts mounted. During the whole process the moisture of the soundboard is regulated according to its destination climate. The soundboard is mounted and the soundboard mouldings fitted and glued in place. Finally, the bridge pin and hitch pin positions are marked out and drilled by an experienced craftsman.

### Assembled Kit

In this configuration, all of the woodworking tasks, including the application of veneer are completed here in our shop. All hardware has been installed and the keyboard has been fitted to the case. Assembled to this point, it is a custom-built instrument by Hubbard professionals. What remains is the application of finish and musical assembly.

## Terms and Delivery

We request a fully refundable pre-deposit of \$50 US to reserve a place in our next run. When we are ready to start production we will ask for a deposit of \$500. Full payment is normally required before shipment. In addition, a further \$500 deposit is required with each Assembled Kit order.

Our small, highly experienced staff produces each part for our kits in batches small enough to ensure that you will receive a product of the highest quality. Consequently, the supply of kits is not even. We generally produce only enough kits to cover orders on hand. As the run is finished, pre-cut kits will be shipped first; assembly options will delay shipment proportionally. Please call or write for current availability or estimates of availability.

## Packing Charges

We employ outside firms to crate and forward our assembled spinet kits. The customer is responsible for all packing/crating charges including ground transport to the packing firm. There is no packing charge for any kit picked up at our shop but, please note, such transactions are subject to Massachusetts sales tax (5%).

## Shipping Estimates, Shipping

We will be happy to solicit and provide estimates for freight costs for shipment by truck, ocean or air-freight. We cannot guarantee that they will reflect the lowest possible cost currently available. Such estimates will not necessarily include current customary surcharges (e.g., for local delivery in some cities, fuel, etc.) nor will they include freight beyond a foreign port, customs, etc. Unless otherwise arranged, all shipments are made freight collect. There is a surcharge of \$75 for overseas export documentation.

## Payment

Domestic Orders: We accept check, MasterCard & VISA.

Orders outside of U.S.: Payment may be made by a check in U.S. funds drawn on a U.S. bank or by transfer directly to our account (routing details available on application). We request the customer make certain that his/her bank pays all transaction fees. Any unpaid charges will be billed to the customer. We also accept MasterCard & VISA for foreign currency exchange. The customer will be responsible for all transaction fees resulting from any other method of payment.

## Guarantee

All Hubbard kits are guaranteed against shortage or defective parts; we request that claims be submitted within 90 days of delivery.

## BUILDER'S WORKSHOPS

Beyond its cost, a harpsichord kit is an investment of time spent now that may be reaped for many years to come as musical pleasure and satisfaction in a job well done. It is a project perfect for those who not only want a harpsichord but also relish the adventure of building it.

For the novice builder without access to a well equipped woodworking shop, however, a great deal of the expense of a kit comes in equipping a shop adequately to accomplish the assembly of the instrument easily and with confidence in the result. A basic set of tools and clamps will be necessary to complete the assembly but the necessity is especially great at the beginning. If one is not sure that cabinet making is in one's future, this expense can be a burden.

In response to this need, we are happy to offer to our customers individual Builder's Workshops (known affectionately around the shop as 'rent-a-bench'). We make our shop and its resources available to the builder (or builders) of a kit. The curriculum for each Workshop is up to the participant(s). It may be possible to accomplish a great deal of woodworking in, say, five days or it may seem more desirable to do less assembly but cover some of the more specialized procedures involved with the set-up of the action. For instance, starting with a pre-cut kit, the builder might be guided through the assembly of the rim, the attachment of the bottom and the installation of the wrestplank, frames and liners. The further completion of the instrument may also be addressed. The result would not be far different than the available case assembled option, but at less cost, ignoring transportation and lodging. The opportunity to work, learn and gain confidence under the guidance of someone who has accomplished these tasks many times is, as the well-known ad suggests, priceless. In this regard alone, the response of the participants has been overwhelmingly enthusiastic.

Builder's Workshops cost \$125 per day. Multiple participants are welcome.



A sturdy bench and lots of clamps ease the task of assembling one of our Flemish kits.