

HUBBARD HARPSICHORDS, INC.

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SINGLE-MANUAL HARPSICHORD

à petit ravalement

after IOANNES MOERMANS, 1584

in both finished and kit form

PRICES AND OPTIONS

September 30, 2007

FLEMISH SINGLE-MANUAL HARPSICHORD *à petit ravalement*

If the harpsichord was born in Italy during the 15th century, it matured into prominence as a solo instrument in Flanders between 1575 and 1650. Flemish builders were not hesitant about using a more robust construction than that previously used in traditional light Italian instruments. The results of their innovations became the most widely emulated approach to harpsichord building in the classical era. By 1625, Antwerp was the acknowledged center for harpsichord production, a position it held for the next half-century. Until the harpsichord was discarded as a vehicle for musical expression, nearly all North European makers claimed descent from the great workshops of Antwerp.

The Hubbard large Flemish single-manual harpsichord is patterned on an instrument built in Antwerp in 1584 by Hans Moermans. Following period French practice, we have preserved the outline and structure of the instrument but enlarged the 55-note, bass short-octave range of the original keyboard to a chromatic span of 58 notes (GG-e^{'''}) and adapted the layout to provide a French 18th-century scaling.

The instrument possesses two choirs of strings at eight-foot pitch (2 x 8'). The design allows for transposition between a¹ = 415 and 440 Hz – all keys play in either position. The instrument has a crisp, free-speaking tone capable of performing the brilliant solo keyboard works of both the 17th and 18th centuries as well as concerti with baroque orchestra. It serves equally well as continuo accompaniment in the chamber music literature of the period. Its most practical feature, however, is its compact size, which makes it a portable companion for the touring professional.



Flemish single-manual harpsichord
à petit ravalement

The layout and touch of the keyboard is that of the 18th century originals from which the design was derived. The keys are rear-guided by pins running in an unbushed wooden rack at the rear of the keyboard and painstakingly balanced for evenness of touch. The octave span is 6 1/4" and the natural key heads are 1 3/8" long, conforming to 18th century French practice. Key fronts are decorated with wood arcades (pear or box, as available), the ebony key heads are rounded and scored with decorative lines, and the stained hardwood, bone-topped sharps are tapered in height and width. The jacks are meticulous reproductions of 18th century French jacks manufactured from the correct woods. Tongues can be furnished pierced for Delrin or feather plectra with return springs of either Nylon or hog bristle. Hubbard Delrin jacks may be substituted. It is close attention to details such as these that results in the light, reliable and, above all, comfortable action favored by 18th century composers and players - one that these instruments possess.



18th c. French-style keyboard is comfortable to play with reproduction wood jacks

Our large Flemish single *à petit ravalement* is offered painted in a traditional 18th century French style, with contrasting interior and exterior colors reconciled by gilded moldings and accented with gold-leaf bands on case and lid. The soundboard and wrestplank may be decorated in period French style, as well. Each instrument comes with a carved-foot baluster stand finished in black. A turned-leg trestle stand in dark-stained oak may be substituted at a modest additional cost. Matching benches are also offered.

FLEMISH SINGLE-MANUAL HARPSICHORD *à petit ravalement*

Specifications

Range: 58 notes, GG-e^{III},
chromatic, transposing one
semitone
Disposition: 2 x 8', buff stop,
handstops
Dimensions: length 6' 11"; width
2' 10"
Instrument weight (exclusive of
stand): 100 lbs
Shipping weight: 310 lbs. crated



Price

Painted decor, carved baluster stand (painted black), ebony naturals,
bone-topped hardwood sharps, reproduction wood jacks, leather
covered registers \$ 19,000

Options

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| a. Delrin® jack credit | \$ -1,250 |
| b. Keyboard with bone-covered naturals & stained hardwood sharps | \$ 600 |
| c. Soundboard & wrestplank decorated in 18th c. French style | <i>inquire</i> |
| d. Marbled exterior of case | <i>inquire</i> |
| e. Keywell & interior lid & case decorated with Flemish papers, mottoes & Ruckers style name batten | \$ 1000 |
| f. Turned trestle stand - 4 turned, oak legs with ball feet, moulded lower stretcher | \$ 475 |
| g. Cordura nylon carrying cover | \$ 350 |
| h. Feather plectra (wood jacks only) | <i>inquire</i> |

FLEMISH SINGLE-MANUAL HARPSICHORD KIT

after Hans Moermans (1584)
with 18th c. Extended Range

For those builders whose musical requirements are considerable but whose resources are limited, our FLEMISH SINGLE-MANUAL HARPSICHORD KIT with its bold sound and unusually large range is ideal. Designed as a small concert harpsichord with transposing keyboard and a compass capable of performing virtually the entire Baroque literature, the resulting instrument easily satisfies quite substantial artistic demands. The outline of our FLEMISH SINGLE-MANUAL HARPSICHORD KIT is exactly that of an instrument built in Antwerp in 1584 by Hans Moermans. We have followed the 18th century practice of *ravalement* and have carefully extended the range of the original from 55 to 58 notes (GG-e^{'''} chromatic). We have also added a French 18th century scaling. Disposed with two eight foot (8') stops and a buff stop, this harpsichord is compact and light - it weighs just 100 lbs off its stand - making it practical for the professional on tour and for amateur ensembles that require frequent moves.

Our kits are accompanied by instructions, plans and templates designed to aid the builder in reproducing the original design in as accurate a manner as possible. Although FLEMISH SINGLE-MANUAL HARPSICHORD KITS are among the most complex we offer, there is nothing about their construction that cannot be mastered with patience for the work and commitment to understanding. While the kit does not demand a particularly extensive collection of tools, the result can suffer from a lack of sufficient clamps and an inefficient work space - we strongly suggest you budget accordingly. The FLEMISH SINGLE-MANUAL HARPSICHORD KIT rewards its builder with a graceful, elegant instrument. The keyboard is closely patterned after mid-18th century French originals and has ebony-covered naturals and imitation bone-covered sharps. Hubbard Delrin jacks are included as the standard offering - this time-tested design offers the builder ease of assembly, reliability and proven longevity. Reproduction wood jacks are available as an option. Well-assembled according to the provided instructions, the action of the FLEMISH SINGLE-MANUAL HARPSICHORD KIT sets no difficulties for the player - it will allow the performer efficiently and comfortably to achieve the best possible results.

A carved-foot baluster stand is included with all FLEMISH SINGLE-MANUAL HARPSICHORD KITS. However, harpsichords in the mid 18th century were often supported by simpler stands. To this end, we also offer a turned-leg trestle stand in oak, which may be substituted at a modest additional cost. The FLEMISH SINGLE-MANUAL HARPSICHORD KIT is available with a number of other Options, among them block printed papers (replicas of traditional Flemish designs printed on fine mould-made paper) to decorate the interior of the instrument. For these and additional Options kindly refer to the Price List, which follows.

"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

FLEMISH SINGLE-MANUAL HARPSICHORD KIT

after Hans Moermans (1584)
with 18th c. Extended Range

Specifications

Range: 58 notes, 4 3/4 octaves,
GG-e^{'''} chromatic,
transposing one semitone
Disposition: 2 x 8', buff stop, handstops
Dimensions: length 6' 11"; width 2' 10"
Instrument weight (exclusive of stand):
100 lbs
Shipping weight (crated, approximate):
Kit with Pre-Cut Parts, 280 lbs.;
Kit with Assembled Case, 310 lbs.



Prices

Kits with Pre-Cut Parts (Delrin® jacks)	\$ 5,300
Pre-Cut Kit with Case Assembled	\$ 6,500
Kit with Case Assembled and Soundboard Installed	\$ 8,950
Assembled Kit	\$ 11,500
Finished Instrument - Please see prior page	

Options

(a) Tapered Soundboard (included in Soundboard-Installed and Assembled Kits)	\$ 85
(b) Book gold leaf and gilding supplies for case mouldings and gold bands	\$ 275
(c) Cordura nylon carrying cover	\$ 440
(d) Keyboard with bone-covered naturals and stained hardwood sharps	\$ 600
(e) Flemish decorating papers and supplies for inside of lid, string and key surrounds	\$ 135
(f) Flemish baluster bench kit, hinged seat, and 4 turned legs in poplar, carved feet	\$ 415
(g) Builder's workshop - rent-a-bench/ day - Please see below (p. 9)	\$ 125

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, dadoes, rabbets and mortises cut and joints prepared for gluing where appropriate. The wrestplanks are given particularly careful attention to ensure their 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 the lid, flap, lid stick, music desk, fallboard and rose - everything except paint! In addition we include a full set of tuning and voicing tools to help make the job of musical finishing easier.



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), nameboard and cap moulding have been fitted and glued in, the bottom installed and trimmed, reinforcing keys cut and fitted into the bentside joints.

Pre-cut French double kit shown as example

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 underside supports. It is then tapered and the aforementioned parts mounted, including a gilded pewter rose when requested. 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 experienced professionals.

Assembled Kit

In this configuration, all of the woodworking tasks prior to decorating and musical finishing 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.

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 Flemish single 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 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 kits.