

# HUBBARD HARPSICHORDS, INC.

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## DOUBLE-MANUAL HARPSICHORD

*after the instruments and practices of*

PASCAL TASKIN

*in both finished and kit form*

PRICES AND OPTIONS

September 30, 2007

## LATE FRENCH DOUBLE-MANUAL HARPSICHORD

No more idiomatic music has ever been written for the harpsichord than by French composers of the 18th century. The harpsichords for which this marvelous body of music was composed were superb and these magnificent products of the Parisian workshops were justly prized throughout Europe. They represent a culmination of the harpsichord-maker's art.

For our French double-manual harpsichord Frank Hubbard chose as primary prototypes a pair of instruments made in Paris in 1769 and 1770 by Pascal Taskin, possibly the most famous of all 18th century French makers. When this design was first drawn over fifty years ago it represented a breakthrough and opened many eyes and ears to the glories of the instrument and its literature.

Over time our understanding of the relation of design and manufacture to musical result has deepened and the instrument has changed to reflect that. Thus we are now producing no mere copy but a proven and fully mature musical instrument that has stayed true to the intents of its prototypes. Despite the late date of those originals, there is little in the classical literature of the harpsichord that cannot be successfully performed on this type of instrument. The singing treble, fluty tenor and rich bass sonorities possessed by these harpsichords work well with all manner of musical styles - even those of much earlier times. The harpsichords made to this design have earned high regard as genuinely successful general-purpose harpsichords (if such a thing can truly exist).

The keyboards are replicas of 18th century originals. The lower-manual key levers are guided by pins running in an unbushed wooden rack at the rear of the keyboard and balanced for evenness of touch by hand carving; the upper keys are pierced at rear for upright pins. The octave span is 6 1/4" and the key heads are 1 3/8" long, conforming to the original 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



French Double Harpsichord on Louis XVI apron stand. [Florida]

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, comfortable, reliable action favored by 18th century composers and players – one that these instruments possess.

Our French doubles are offered painted in a traditional 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 18th century French style. Each instrument comes with a simple trestle stand. A Louis XVI apron stand with turned and fluted legs or a French Provincial cabriole stand may be substituted at additional cost. Matching benches are also offered.



French Double Harpsichord on trestle stand, matching bench [Acton, Massachusetts]

#### *Recordings of interest*

- A Harpsichord Recital. Takae Ohnishi performs works of J. S. Bach, Toru Takemitsu & Lei Liang. 1993 Hubbard & Broekman, after Taskin. Opal Records ORH1311 CD-023 U.S. Postpaid \$21
- Demonstration CD, Hendrik Broekman, harpsichord. Music of Chambonnieres, Pachelbel, Fischer, Bach & Duphly. Two kit-built instruments after Taskin. Recorded digitally in the Hubbard Framingham shop in 2004, 2005. CD-R U.S. Postpaid \$10



A comfortable, reliable action serves to make this a satisfying place to play – or work. [Lincoln, Massachusetts]

# LATE FRENCH DOUBLE-MANUAL HARPSICHORD

*after the instruments and practices of*

**PASCAL TASKIN**

## *Specifications*

Range: 61 notes, five octaves, FF-f<sup>'''</sup>, transposing (a' = 415 Hz, 440 Hz)

Disposition: Upper manual 1 x 8'; lower manual 1 x 8', 1 x 4', optional *peau de buffle*, buff stop; handstops & shove coupler

Dimensions: length 7' 7 3/4"; width 3' 1 3/4"

Instrument weight (exclusive of stand): 140-5 lbs

Shipping weight: 400 lbs. crated

## *Price*

With painted & gilded case, trestle stand, ebony naturals, bone-topped hardwood sharps, reproduction wood jacks, leather covered registers

\$ 28,000

## *Options*

a. Substitute Delrin® jacks - credit

\$ - 1,500

b. Soundboard & wrestplank decorated in 18th c. French style

*inquire*

c. Queen Anne cabriole apron stand

\$ 5,500

d. Louis XVI apron stand

\$ 4,500

e. 18<sup>th</sup> C. pattern music desk

\$ 400

f. Cordura nylon carrying cover

\$ 350

g. *Peau de buffle* register, handstop-actuated (Delrin jacks only)

\$ 1,200



Typical soundboard and wrestplank decoration. Blue borders, rose surrounded by the maker's name, surrounded by a floral wreath. Next to the jack gap a bird perched on a dead tree (In life I was silent, in death I sweetly sing).

[Lincoln, Massachusetts; Barbara Pixton, artist]

# FRENCH DOUBLE-MANUAL HARPSICHORD KITS

*after the instruments and practices of*

## PASCAL TASKIN



Kit # 2232 built by A. P. [California]

accurate a manner as possible. Although FRENCH DOUBLE-MANUAL HARPSICHORD KITS are 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 keyboards are replicas of Taskin keyboards and have 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 FRENCH DOUBLE-MANUAL HARPSICHORD KIT sets no difficulties for the player – it will allow the performer to efficiently achieve the best possible results.

A tapered-leg trestle stand is included with all FRENCH DOUBLE-MANUAL HARPSICHORD KITS; however, continental harpsichords in the mid 18th century were often supported by a set of turned and fluted legs in the style of Louis XVI attached to a low rim or apron. Later the legs were sometimes fixed directly to the bottom of the instrument. Either of these Options is available to FRENCH DOUBLE-MANUAL KIT builders. Other Options for this kit may be found on 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

The FRENCH DOUBLE-MANUAL HARPSICHORD KIT rewards its builder with an instrument of elegant proportion and detail. The sound possessed of this design is reliably strong and engaging. With a range of five octaves, FF-f''' (61 notes, transposing one semitone), 3 ranks of jacks, 3 choirs of strings and a buff stop, this instrument is capable of giving a good account of virtually all of the harpsichord literature of the Baroque.

Our kits are accompanied by instructions, plans and templates designed to aid the builder in reproducing the original design in as

## FRENCH DOUBLE-MANUAL HARPSICHORD KITS

### *Specifications:*

Range: 61 notes, 5 octaves, FF-f<sup>III</sup> chromatic, transposing one semitone  
 Disposition: Upper manual, 1 x 8'; Lower manual, 1 x 4', 1 x 8', optional  
 peau de buffle; shove manual coupler, buff stop, handstops  
 Dimensions: length 7' 7 3/4"; width 3' 1 3/4"  
 Weight, finished (exclusive of stand): 140-5 lbs.  
 Shipping weight (crated, approximate):  
 Kit with Pre-Cut Parts, 400 lbs.;  
 Kit with Assembled Case, 425 lbs.

### *Prices:*

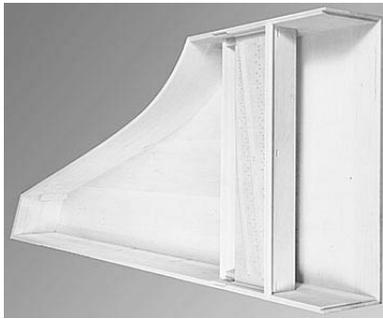
Kit with Pre-Cut Parts	\$ 6,800
Pre-Cut Kit with Case Assembled	\$ 8,000
Kit with Case Assembled and Soundboard Installed	\$ 10,500
Assembled Kit	\$ 14,000
Finished Instrument - Please see prior page	

### *Options:*

(a) Peau de Buffle register, to be added to lower-manual 8' (Delrin jacks only)	\$ 450
(b) Tapered soundboard (included in Soundboard-Installed and Assembled Kits)	\$ 100
(c) Louis XVI fluted legs and caps (6) in poplar with hardware	\$ 275
(d) Louis XVI apron stand, dimensioned parts kit with 6 fluted legs in poplar	\$1,600
(e) Louis XVI apron stand, pre-cut rim and front moldings installed	\$1,900
(f) Louis XVI apron stand, fully assembled	\$3,500
(g) Flemish papers and supplies for string and key surrounds	\$ 110
(h) Book gold leaf and gilding supplies for case mouldings and applying gold bands to case and lid	\$ 300
(i) Book gold leaf and gilding supplies for apron stand and 6 fluted legs	\$ 210
(j) Book gold leaf sufficient for 6 Louis XVI fluted legs only	\$ 135
(k) Cordura nylon carrying cover	\$ 440
(l) Harpsichord bench kit, hinged seat with 4 tapered legs (poplar)	\$ 310
(m) Harpsichord bench kit, hinged seat with 4 Louis XVI legs (poplar)	\$ 450
(n) 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 nuts), 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 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 bridges, hitchpin rail and ribs. It is then tapered and the aforementioned parts mounted, including a gilded pewter rose if desired. 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 assembled 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 French double 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 in the form of musical pleasure as well as 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 use the time 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.