

Paolo Soprani

General condition

This is a very attractive instrument in reasonable cosmetic condition. The keyboard and keys work and are in good condition. The instrument has 2 palm switches one of which has a broken spring (now mended). The switches are not interconnected which gives the instrument 4 different voices. There is also an indicator for one of the switches and I think that there might have been one for the other switch but I cannot see evidence for it. The slides move easily and it is a simple task to return this mechanism to perfect working condition. As opened there were 27 reeds that had become detached from the reed blocks and were loose in the instrument. All appear undamaged and I have gathered them into a plastic bag and put it into the bellows for safe keeping. The bellows is reasonable but the corner metal protectors are cracked and could do with replacement. The bass end mechanism needs some attention as a couple of buttons have disconnected. There is a plastic strip that has moved from the original position and one of the support blocks for the whole mechanism has become unglued. All of this is quite straight forward to repair. The weight of the instrument without straps is 9.6Kg

Tuning

The reeds are all present and all appear undamaged with just some light corrosion. Most of the leather valves will need replacing as they are curled. The instrument will need tuning.

Pictures



Keyboard and valves



Label



Rear View



Bellows Corner



Treble Reed blocks



Treble Reed blocks



Bass Reed Blocks



Bass Reed Blocks



Bass Button Mechanism



Bass Button voice switch



Closing Strap



Treble Voice Switch

Summary

The instrument is a 120 bass with 41 keys from a low E to a high F. The instrument has a double palm operated voice switch – probably for Musette and low bass at the keyboard end and a single switch at the bass end.

The instrument is mechanically sound with all the mechanisms in place.

Work needed to restore it to good condition is:-

1. Repair or replace the bellows corners
2. remove and rewax all the reeds
3. Repair/adjust the bass mechanism
4. Check and replace where necessary the leather reed valves
5. Fit new bellows gaskets to both ends
6. Tune the instrument