

CHOOSING BUSHING CLOTH



A frequently asked question at is *"You carry 8 sizes of bushing cloth. What size (thickness) of bushing cloth should I use for my rebushing job?"*

Before choosing the best thickness of cloth we will first assume that the mortises are in good shape and don't require repair.

Once you have selected the caul you want to use, it becomes a matter of "sizing" the cloth to the space between the mortise side and the caul. At the balance rail, you will want no side-to-side play. For the front rail, we recommend going .004" (.002" for each side) over the caul size, eliminating the need for easing.

To select the cloth, start by dry-fitting a test piece. Remove the caul slowly and check the resistance as you pull out the caul. The caul should come out easily with a slight bit of resistance. If it is too tight you will need to choose a thinner size. If too loose, go thicker. With a little practice you will learn which cloth will give you the best results. The more sizes you have on hand, the more accurate your job will become. After 20 years of providing in-house rebushing service to the trade, we have found that this method has been the most effective.

Pianotek offers 8 sizes of high quality, white center, English bushing cloth available in bulk or in pre-cut strips. Strips are cut at 11/32" width, 52" long, and are very inexpensive. Stocking a few strips of each size will ensure your best work.