

## THE ACOUSTICRAFT STRATE-MATE

- Solid steel bar stock.
- Precision die-press bending insures accurate alignment.
- Baked-on durable powder coat finish.
- Comfortable grip handle.
- Adjustable center-post.
- Long-wearing nylon roller.
- Lifetime warranty.
- Manufactured by: Pianotek Supply Company Clawson, MI



### INSTRUCTIONS

The Strate-Mate is designed to serve two purposes after installing new strings. First, to stretch new wire to hasten the “settling-in” process, and secondly, to level the wire after they have stabilized. The result is that the ‘slow-bend” coming under the agraffe or capo bar is removed prior to damper installation and mating hammers to the strings. This makes a very quick and uniform job out of what used to be a tedious and laborious task. It also cuts down on the number of “chip” tunings needed when not using the Strate-Mate.

The first step prior to using the Strate-Mate is to make sure that the tool is level to the plane on which it is to be used. For example, if the tool is sitting on a benchtop, the nylon roller at the tip of the tool needs to be completely parallel to that plane. It should not tip to one side or the other. If it does, you will have to modify the bottom of the base (paper shims, etc.) to compensate.

To stretch newly installed strings, unscrew the center-post to make it as high as possible yet still allowing the tool to slide into the empty cavity space. Insert the tool as far as possible into that space toward the bellyrail. Pressing down on the handle deflects the strings in an upward direction. Press firmly downward but avoid excessive pressure. The upward deflection allows the strings to be slightly lifted off the bridge assisting them to slide through the front and back bridge pins. This equalizes the back part of the string as they are being stretched. Do this operation only once. You can stretch single bass, bichord, or trichords, at one time.

After the piano has been tuned several times, go back and level all the bichords and trichords. This will ensure uniformity when installing dampers and mating hammers.

Next, screw down the center-post as far as possible to lower the lever. It must be high enough however, that the lever does not “bottom-out” on the keybed. Insert the Strate-Mate into the cavity but this time, keep the nylon roller as close to the agraffe or capo bar as possible. Level all notes, #1 - #88. Press the lever down using a firm but gentle motion so the roller applies upward pressure as close as possible to the agraffe or capo bar. The goal of this operation is to remove the “slow-bend” in the wire as they leave their termination point and make them straight. **NOTE: DO NOT OVERDUE THIS OPERATION! It is possible to go too far and put a permanent bend in an upward direction or actually break the strings!!**

If you are careful, you can also use the Strate-Mate to straighten the strings in the capo section as they go down from the tuning pins into the capo area. Simply move the tool to the other side of the capo bar and push the roller upward using firm but gentle pressure.

After the final Strate-Mate operation is completed, you need to “set” or “seat” all of the strings to the bridges at the front and rear duplexes (aliquots) by tapping them back down.