

RESTORATION OF MAHOGANY VENEER OF A MID-20TH CENTURY SPINET PIANO FROM SEVERE WATER DAMAGE



After water damage

This poster presents the method used to repair the water damage and the restoration of the original finish of a mid-20th century mahogany spinet piano.

Water leakage from a burst hot water heater pipe in a condominium unit above the location of piano resulted in ceiling leakage above piano. Extensive water damage from leak penetrated the surface of the piano's mahogany veneer.

Restoration of the surface veneer was accomplished in two weeks' time using the following methods:



After applications of mayonnaise over 2 wks

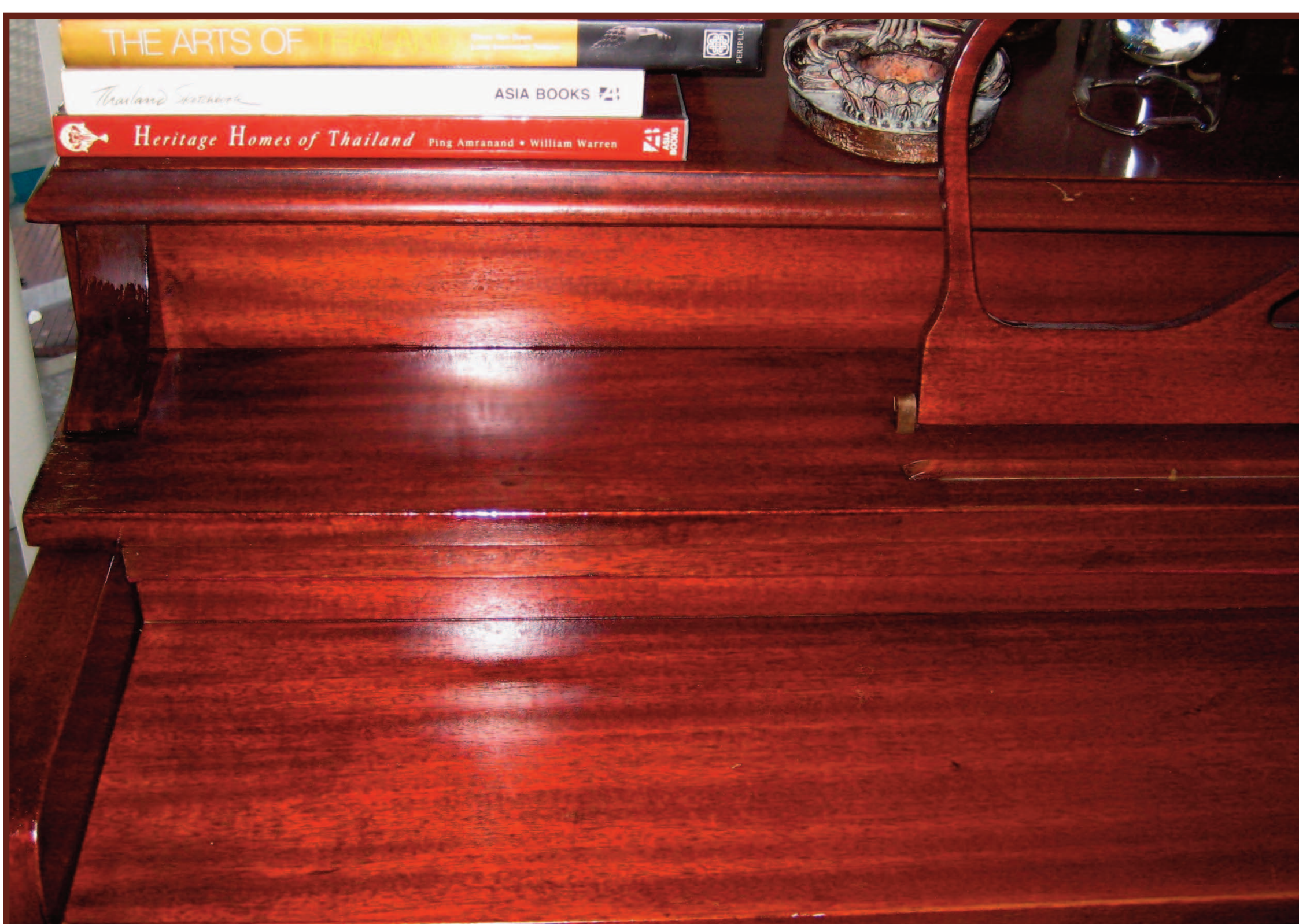
- Veneer surface was dried using cool diffusion air source: a Conair portable hair dryer set on cool for spot drying and a standing portable fan running continuously over veneer surface until surface was dry to touch.

- A thick layer of mayonnaise was applied to the entire damage surface for a period of two weeks. At the end of the two week period, most water damage spots had disappeared or were completely faded.

- Remaining spots were lightly sanded with extra-fine 220 grit sandpaper. For small spots needing a light touch, a small piece of sandpaper was glued to the eraser end of a pencil.

- A red mahogany stain (Minwax Wood Finish Red Mahogany 225) was applied, allowed to briefly saturate and removed four times to bring out grain of veneer. Surface was shined with lemon oil.

- No damage to piano keys or strings caused by water damage.



Restoration completed

Patricia Stewart, Humpty Dumpty Restorations, La Jolla, CA
pstewart5@san.rr.com