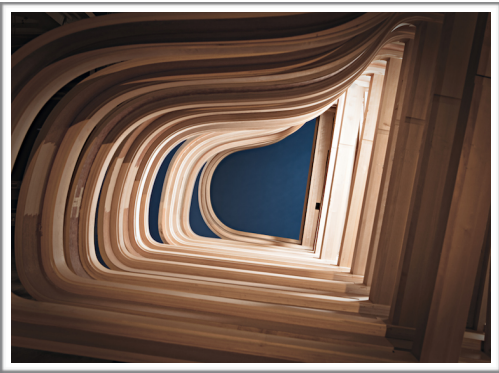


BOSTON FEATURES NOT FOUND IN ESSEX PIANOS



MAPLE INNER RIM

A feature introduced with the launch of the Boston Performance Edition, a maple inner rim increases structural integrity and improves tone by isolating the sound board. This is because maple is a much harder wood than cheaper substitute woods, such as Lauan, used in other pianos. Harder wood = less vibration of the rim and less absorption of sound = better, fuller sound from the soundboard. A maple inner rim is found in only the finest pianos (e.g., in Steinways).

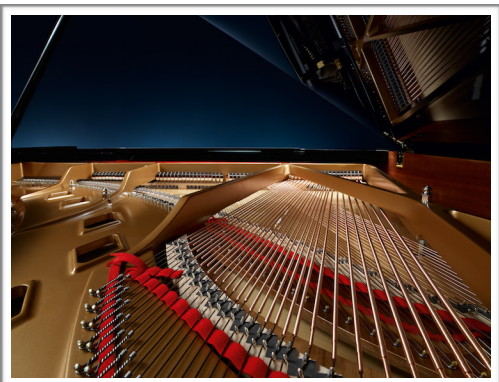
- ▶ The Essex grand piano rim, both outer and inner, is laminated walnut.



BOSTON OCTAGRIP® PINBLOCK

A Boston Performance Edition exclusive! Eleven layers of hard rock maple (used for its superior hardness, grain, and stability properties) are glued in different grain angles of 60 degrees, keeping the tuning pins tight but allowing for fluid motion during tuning. When the pinblock provides multiple orientations of the grain, it grips the pins from multiple directions, creating greater stability for the tuning pins under tension and enabling longer lasting tunings.

- ▶ The Essex pinblock is created from multiple layers of maple incorporated into a single block. The bi-directional structure of the layers grips the tuning pins from four directions—ensuring a tight fit, uniform pressure, and smoother tuning.



SOLID COPPER-WOUND BASS STRINGS (MAPES, USA) (GRAND)

Solid copper-wound will last longer than copper-plated on steel, which is why it's used. It also helps to ensure pure tone for the life of the piano. Steinway-patented overstringing allows maximum speaking length of bass strings and a smoother transition from bass to tenor sections. All Boston grand bass strings are made by the Mapes Piano String Company in Tennessee, USA.

- ▶ The Essex piano has solid copper-wound will last longer than copper-plated on steel so that is why it's used. It also helps to ensure pure tone for the life of the piano.



TEXTURED SYNTHETIC IVORY & EBONY KEYS (EXCEPT ON UP-118S)

The textured synthetic material used on all Boston pianos (except the UP-118S PE, which has plastic keytops), provides all the benefits of real ivory and ebony without using real ivory or ebony.



EXTRUDED ALUMINUM ACTION RAILS

The action rail provides a solid termination for hammer flanges, allowing the greatest transfer of energy when playing the piano (which translates into tone). Aluminum is used because it is very durable and is virtually impervious to temperature or humidity changes. It therefore acts as a solid anchor that will last for many years and throughout various climate zones and changes. It has an extruded raised rosette shape down the entire length of the action rail which provide superior stability in holding the alignment of action parts like the Steinway action rail.



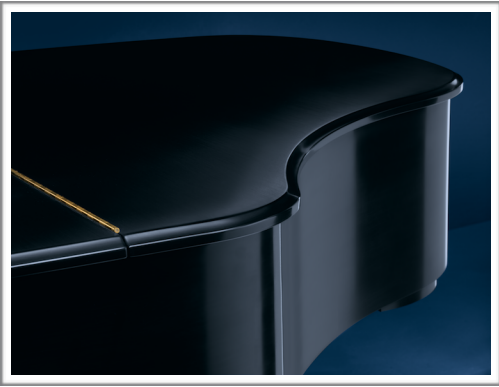
PEAR-SHAPED HAMMERS WITH REINFORCED SHOULDERS & METAL FASTENERS

Boston hammers are designed by Steinway. They are made in Japan in a Steinway-owned hammer press that is used exclusively for Boston hammers.

There are really only two hammer shapes made: pear and oval. The Steinway-designed pear-shape produces the best tone quality. The amount of area that makes contact with the string is important; you want less attack, more sustain. The reinforced shoulders are on a mahogany molding with underfelt, which helps to create the correct density of hammer felt.

The metal fasteners are two-pronged and then twisted to securely fasten the felt to the hammer at the point of manufacture. These three things create a superior hammer that is built to last.

- ▶ Essex Hammers are specified by Steinway and made by Imadegawa in Japan using German-made hammer felt and hornbeam moldings. Our extensive testing has shown these hammers to be superior to all other premium OEM hammers.



LOCKING TOP AND FALLBOARD (FOR GP-163, GP-178, GP-193, GP-215 & UP-118S)

All grands have a locking top except model GP-156 PE. Only the UP-118S PE has a locking fallboard and toplid in the uprights. You have the built-in security, if you need it.

- ▶ The only Essex piano that has a locking top and fallboard is the EUP-123s



SLOW-FALL FALLBOARD ON ALL GRANDS & UPRIGHTS (EXCEPT THE UP-118S)

The slow-fall fallboard has been a feature in Boston pianos since 1995. All grands have it, as well as all uprights except the UP-118S PE. Fingers won't get pinched, and there is greatly reduced risk of damage to the hinges or chips in the finish.

- ▶ All Essex grand pianos Slow-Fall Fallboards. Essex upright do not.



WEIGHTED, NON-WARP KEYSLIP FOR ALL BOSTON GRANDS

Having a metal insert in the keyslip assures that the wood will stay straight and not warp (it will keep the shape of the metal). A straight keyslip will ensure that keys don't stick and will keep functioning, worry-free. Also, a warped keyslip detracts from the appearance of the piano, as it is quite noticeable.