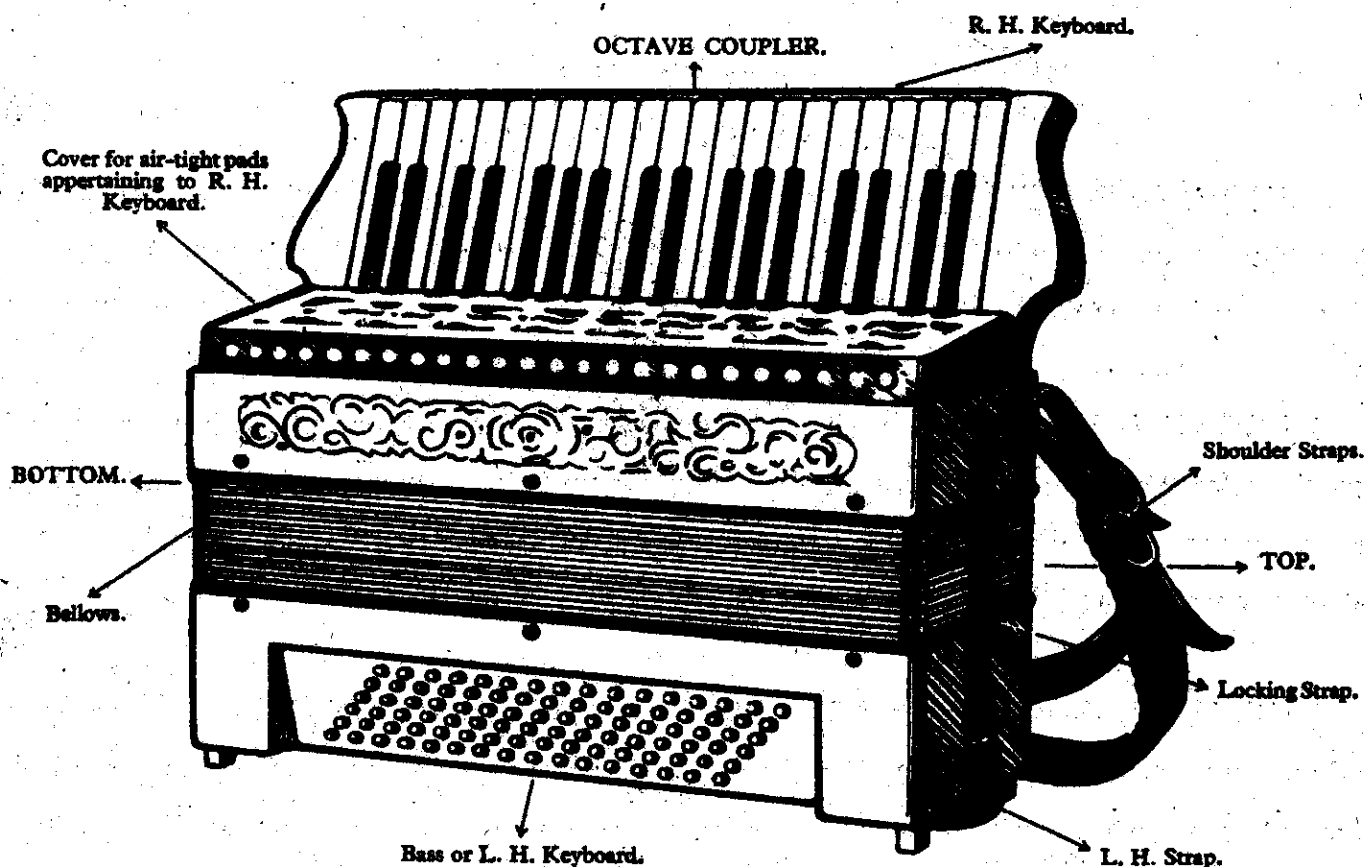


Chapter 2



General Description of the Piano Accordeon

The main features of the Piano Accordeon are located on the accompanying diagram. It would be advisable, therefore, for the student to refer constantly to this diagram for the duration of this chapter, in order to acquaint himself with those features.

1 THE RIGHT HAND KEYBOARD:—The Keyboard for the right hand is similar to that of the organ, the only differences being that the Piano Accordeon Keyboard, when in a playing position, is almost vertical, the Keys are shorter and narrower, and, of course, the range is considerably less. (A diagram depicting the ranges of the various Piano Accordeon R. H. Keyboards appears on page 20.

2 THE BASS OR LEFT HAND KEYBOARD:—This Keyboard is situated on the left side of the Piano Accordeon. (A detailed account of the Left Hand Keyboard appears in Chapter 4)

3 THE BELLOWS:—The wind pressure for the instrument is supplied from bellows operated by the Left Hand.

4 LEFT HAND STRAP:—This strap is provided for the purpose of enabling the player to inflate and deflate the bellows.

5 SHOULDER STRAPS:—The instrument, when in a playing position, is suspended by two loop-straps, one which loops on to the right shoulder and the other on to the left shoulder. These straps are adjustable.

6 LOCKING STRAPS:—These short straps are located at each end of the instrument and are there for the purpose of preventing the bellows from being damaged when the instrument is not in use. When the bellows are compressed and the locking straps fixed the instrument is at once compact and can be lifted without fear of damaging the bellows.

7 COVER FOR RIGHT HAND KEYBOARD AIR-TIGHT PADS:—This cover, although it looks purely ornamental, is fixed on the Piano Accordion for a very definite purpose. It prevents any dust or grit from getting under the air-tight pads and also acts in the capacity of a sound distributor. It is easily detachable.

A Hint

If, at any time, your instrument should develop internal trouble such as, reed "huskiness," sticking pads, air leakage, in fact anything pertaining to the inside mechanism, you would be well advised to take it at once to an expert repairer.

The mechanism of the instrument is very delicate and much serious damage could be done to it in the hands of an inexperienced person.

How to hold the Piano Accordion

STANDING POSITION



SITTING POSITION



How to Hold the Piano Accordion

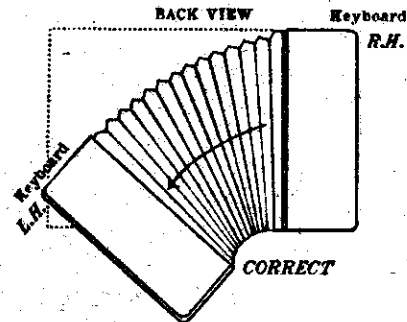
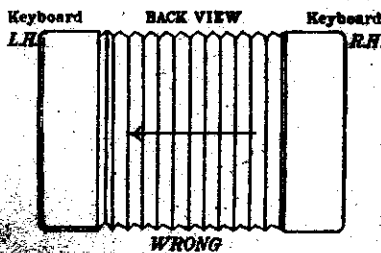
The Piano Accordion, if played standing, should be held in a slightly slanting position, i.e., the Right Hand Keyboard should lie at an angle of approximately 25° from the vertical. The weight should rest principally on the chest.

To obtain ease and comfort in manipulation the player should stand fairly erect. Obviously a crouched stance would tend to tire the player, for instead of the weight being evenly distributed across the chest, it would be transferred to the neck and shoulders.

The Piano Accordion, if played sitting down, should be held almost vertical with the lower end of the Right Hand Keyboard resting on the right thigh.

The Bellows

The correct method of "blowing" is a subject of very considerable importance. The bellows should be extended "fan-wise," not horizontally.



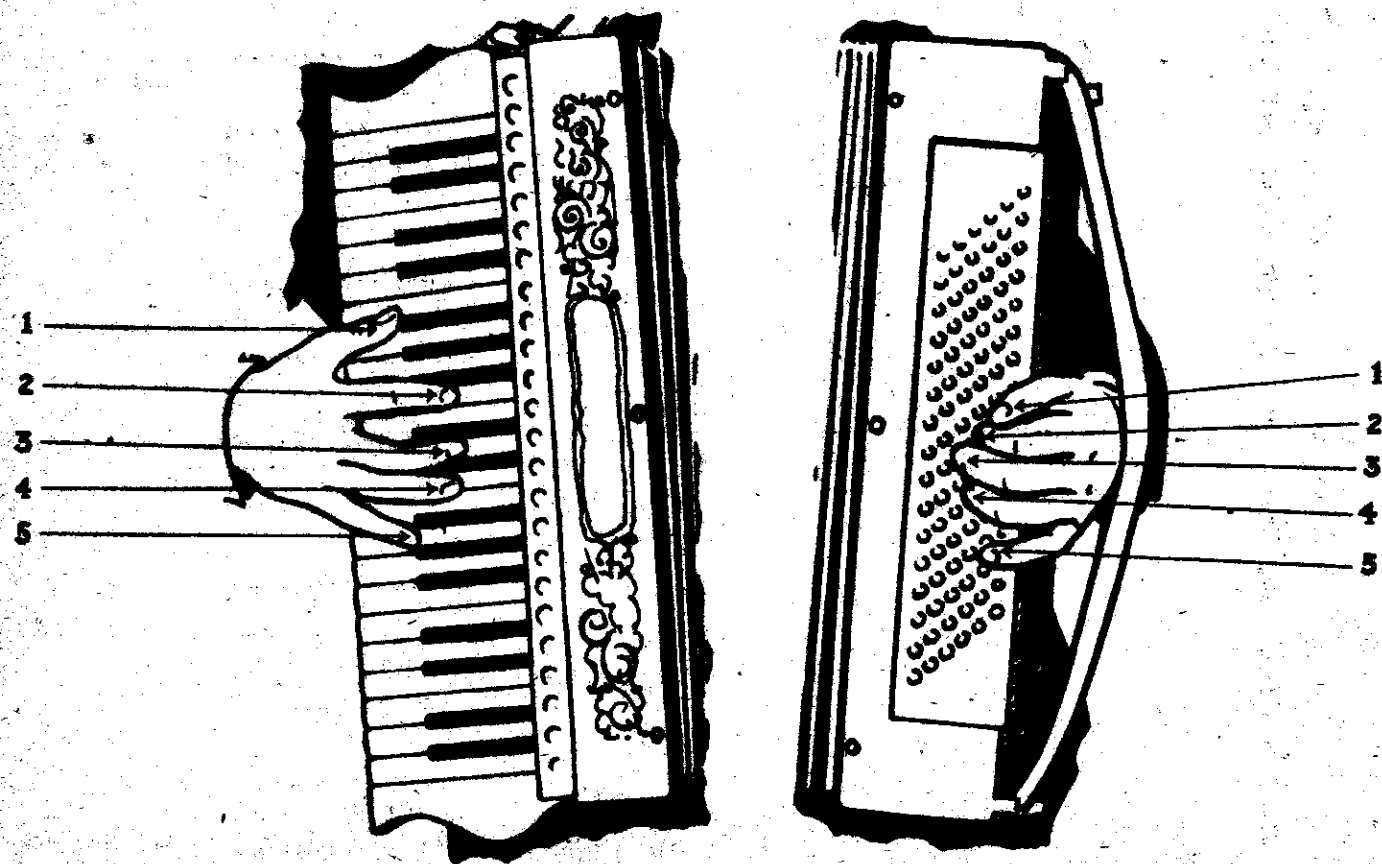
Even, flowing music can only be produced by correspondingly even, flowing inflation and deflation of the bellows, and the technique that goes to make up expressive playing depends entirely upon judicious handling of the bellows.

The Hands

The Piano Accordion is played with both hands. The right hand manipulates the right hand Keyboard. The left hand is drawn through the left hand strap and manipulates the Bases and Accompaniments. The system of fingering which I wish to employ in this method is as follows:—

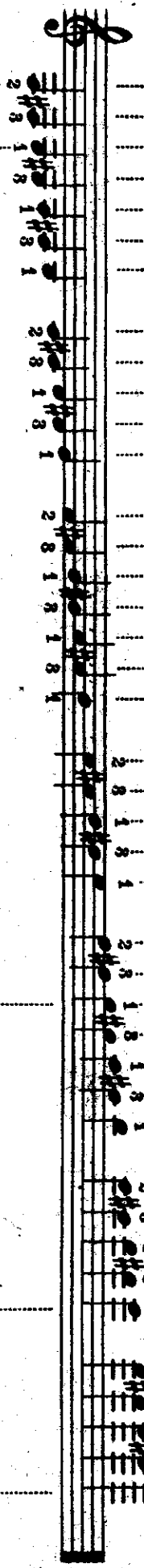
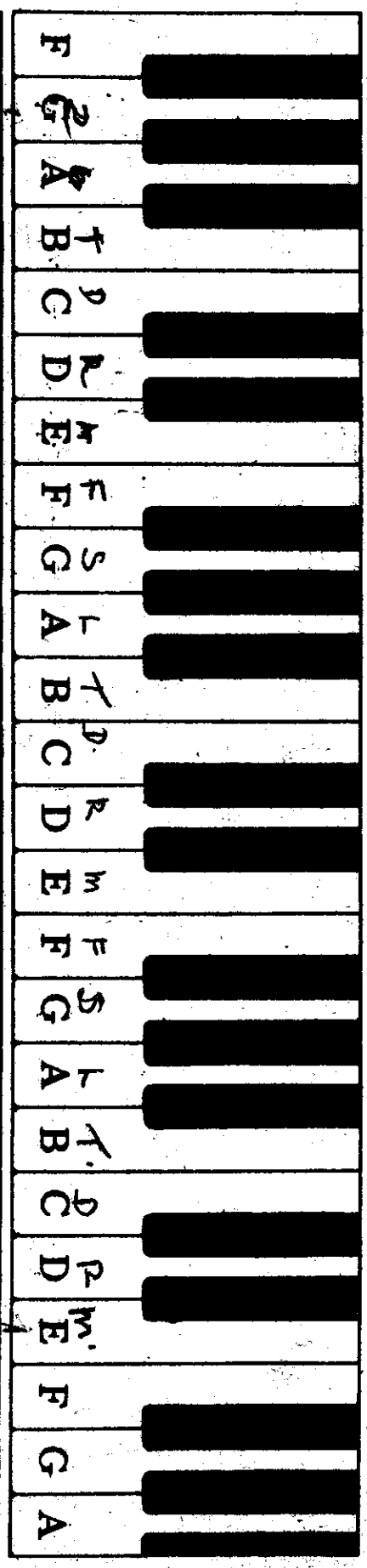
- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | signifies the use of the 1st finger (Thumb) |
| 2 | ” ” ” ” ” 2nd finger |
| 3 | ” ” ” ” ” 3rd finger |
| 4 | ” ” ” ” ” 4th finger |
| 5 | ” ” ” ” ” 5th finger |

This will dispense with the old and somewhat confusing method of using a cross (+) to signify the use of the thumb.



All five fingers are utilised in the right hand, but the thumb is never used in the left hand.

F#	G#	A#	C#	D#	F#	G#	A#	C#	D#	F#	G#	A#	C#	D#	F#	G#
or	or	or	or	or	or	or	or	or	or	or	or	or	or	or	or	or
Gb	Ab	Bb	Db	Eb	Gb	Ab	Bb	Db	Eb	Gb	Ab	Bb	Db	Eb	Gb	Ab



Compass of Two Octave Piano Accordion

Compass of Piano Accordion with Two Octaves and a Sixth

Compass of Piano Accordion with Three Octaves and a Third

Diagram, in Chromatic Form, of the Right Hand Keyboard showing the Full Compass of the Various Piano Accordions, and how to finger the Chromatic Scale