

Orgelkit Ciphers and How to Fix Them

Okay. You've assembled the Orgelkit and even got someone to pump the bellows so you can play. But as soon as pressure is applied, you're greeted with a symphony of sound before you've even touched a single key.

Ciphers. — the bane of an organist's existence, right? Not to worry, they've been around for as long as organs have and, fortunately, they're easy to fix. Even for this little guy.

The Culprit

When you press a particular key, a valve opens to allow air to flow up to the corresponding pipe so it can sound. That's the way organs are supposed to work. However, if that valve is stuck open, the pipe happily sings no matter what you do. That's a cipher.

The valve in question is called a PALLET and there are 25 of them in this Orgelkit, one for each note and their corresponding pipes. The pallets are housed in the wind chest, the box sitting on top of the frame, just under the pipes. You can see them through the clear window on the front of the wind chest, shown at right.



Each pallet covers a hole in the top of the wind chest that leads to a pipe. To do its job, the pallet has to "seat" against the top of the wind chest sealing the hole. In other words, the flat surface on top of the pallet seals against the flat surface at the top of the wind chest where the holes are. If the pallet is crooked, it doesn't seal properly, allowing air to pass to the pipe. A cipher.

The image at right shows shows pallet #9 is not seated properly. This is what you need to look for — they're pretty easy to spot. Often pallets go crooked due to movement of the connecting wire while hooking up the keys.



The Fix

Fortunately, the fix is pretty easy. Simply find the rod connected to the offending pallet, grasp it just above the leather toggle and wiggle it side to side until the pallet seats properly and the cipher stops.

Do this quick check after each assembly Orgelkit and enjoy cipher-free music.

