

Keefe Piccolos - Vented C key



The Vented C key is a small hole in the C key (first finger, left hand). It is used by keeping the C key closed but sliding the finger off to one side to vent the small hole. We pad the C key with a cork pad which accepts the small hole very well. Some of its uses are as follows:

Improving response for middle E: When we play middle D or middle D#, we keep the C key open. This open tone hole acts as an octave key and allows the D and D# to speak freely. When we move up to middle E, the note can be a bit fussy and easy to crack. An octave key would help but opening the full C key is too much. Venting the C key with the smaller hole is the solution. It makes the E more stable, especially when double tonging or using accented articulation.

Raising pitch of top G and middle octave C: These notes can become flat when playing piano. This is especially problematic on the G because there are few, if any, alternate fingerings to help. Venting the C will raise the pitch by 10 to 15 cents.

Are there any potential drawbacks to the Vented C? When we build the Vented C key, the finger button must be centered on the cup. The C finger button on the Keefe piccolo has traditionally been located to the side of the cup, away from the head joint. So, moving to a Vented C key will require a slight change in hand position.

Can the Vented C key be added to my earlier Keefe piccolo? Yes, we can add the Vented C. It involves removing the existing finger button and soldering it its new position. The key must then be re-padded. The cost is \$150.