

French Terraced Consoles

An alternative to the Phoenix standard American-style drawknob console is the French-terraced console. This has been the standard console style in France for going on two centuries and in a variety of simplified forms it was also popular in North America during the 19th and early 20th centuries. The main difference between French and American style is the drawstop jambs. While both types have drawknobs placed to the right and left of the manuals, the American style uses flat vertical panels angled so that drawknobs can be pulled in towards the player, whereas the French style has the drawstops in steps (terraces) extending out from the steps of the manuals. Many larger French organs have the terraces curved so that the faces of all drawknobs are angled in toward the player. In a simpler more common form however, the terraced jambs are straight in line with the manuals. Phoenix normally uses straight jambs but they are placed at such an angle that the drawknob heads are easier for the organist to see and reach. One important advantage of the French-terraced console is that it can be built much lower than an American-style console so that the organist can easily see over the top. This is an important feature that has made this style more popular in recent years.

Specifications for French Terraced Consoles can be seen on the featured installations page for Church of the Epiphany, Ottawa and Wayne Hare Residence organ.



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