

Scraping the whole surface of the tip thinner

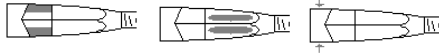
Response – Softer
Pitch – Flatter
Stability – Looser
Tone – Brighter

Scraping just the tip's sides and corners

Response – Softer
Pitch – Nominal
Stability – Tighter
Tone – Nominal

Clipping the tip

Response – Harder
Pitch – Sharper
Stability – Tighter
Tone – Darker



Scraping the outer sides of the heart

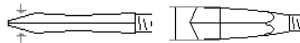
Response – Softer
Pitch – Flatter
Stability – Looser
Tone – Brighter

Scraping the back

Response – Harder
Pitch – Flatter
Stability – Looser
Tone – Darker

Squeezing open reed

Response – Harder
Pitch – Flatter
Stability – Nominal
Tone – Nominal



Squeezing reed more closed

Response – Easier
Pitch – Sharper
Stability – Nominal
Tone – Nominal

Narrowing blades of reed

Response – Harder
Pitch – Sharper
Stability – Tighter
Tone – Darker

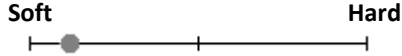
Soaking reeds in water for too long

Response – Easier
Pitch – Flatter
Stability – Looser
Tone – Brighter

Evaluation Guide

The criteria below are the standards for a perfect reed.

Response/Resistance



Pitch/Tuning



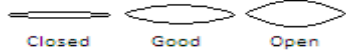
Stability/Quality



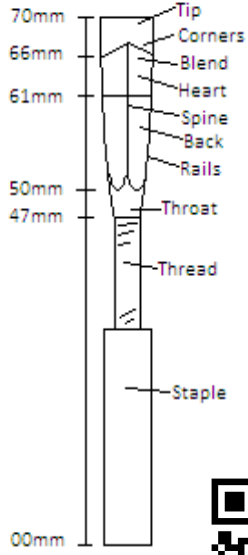
Tone/Color



Opening



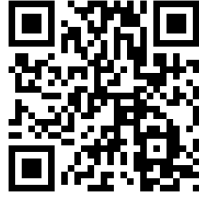
Anatomy



Essential

Tools

- Reed Knife
- Plaque
- Cutting Block
- Mandrel
- Tuner
- Emery Board



Reed Adjustment Guide

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Crowing the Reed

To make it crow, the reed is placed far enough in the mouth that you can close your lips around the thread and then enough air is forced through the reed to cause it to make a sound.

Playing the Reed

The final step in adjusting a reed.

How to soak a reed

It is best to dip reeds in water and let them sit for 10 minutes. Leaving them to soak in a cup of water will dissolve the sap in the cane quicker leaving it with less structural support.

Making Reeds Last

Reeds should last about 10 playing hours. You should usually have at least 3 reeds on hand at all times.

Other Problems and Observations

Leaking – apply teflon tape, fish-skin or clear fingernail polish

Weak Reed – apply wire or dip reed in a mix of 70% water 30% Hydrogen Peroxide

Reedcase – Needs to be secure and allow reeds to air-dry. Should be able to breath and not be airtight.

Knife—Allows use a sharp blade when adjusting reeds.