

REEDMAKING REMINDERS

- I. Tying the Reed
 - A. Slip the blades to the right
 - B. Make sure the cane is straight on the tube as aligned with the flat part of the mandrel
 - C. Tie length should be 71mm from the top of the cane to the bottom of the tube
 - D. Cut off the ears

- II. Cutting the Tip Open
 - A. Begin thinning the tip in an inverted “v” until easily clippable
 - B. Clip the tip the smallest amount as to separate the cane into two pieces
 - C. Re-slip the blades to the right all the way down to the thread

- III. Maintaining the Ratio
 - A. Make sure the reed adheres to these approximate length proportions:
TIP=3.5mm, HEART=6.5mm, BACK=10mm.
 - B. Scrape all parts of the reed during the process keeping the 1:3:2 thickness ratio (tip, heart, back) at all times
 - C. Continue until the reed begins to crow

- IV. Analyzing the Thread Crow
 - A. Thin the corners of the tip (while maintaining the ratio) until the resistance of the thread crow becomes comfortable
 - B. Symptoms/Solutions
 1. If the thread crow drops below a “c”, clip the tip
IF THERE IS MORE THAN ONE SYMPTOM, ALWAYS DO THIS STEP FIRST.
 2. If the thread crow is rattly, thin the sides of the tip and/or define the area where the heart meets the tip on the sides more sharply
 3. If the thread crow lacks the bottom octave, thin the channels of the heart or blend the heart into the tip in front of the channels
 4. If the resistance increases at any time, repeat step IV. A.

REMEMBER: WHEN YOU ARE TRYING TO DECIDE WHERE TO SCRAPE ON THE REED TO CURE ANY OF THE ABOVE SYPTOMS, SCRAPE WITH THE INTENTION OF ACHIEVING SYMMETRY. SCRAPE THE REED ONLY WHERE IT NEEDS TO BE SCRAPED—THE THICKER CORNER, THE THICKER SIDE, ETC.

- V. Analyzing the Playing Crow/Testing the Reed on the Oboe
 - A. If the playing crow lacks focus (pure tone), thin the extreme edges of the tip and/or the extreme corners of the tip
 - B. If the tone when tested on the oboe lacks resonance, thin the windows