

Tied-Blank Checklist

_____ The **overall length** of the blank is best for the shape you are using
(Example, 72mm)

Write your best tie length here _____, Shape used _____

_____ Cane is **straight** on the staple, **3 WAYS**:

1. Look down the length of the blank; it should not angle to left or right, but be straight
2. Cane bisects the oval at the top of the staple when you look through it, or is very slightly rotated, as in "14 'til and 16 after" (referencing a clock face).
3. Cane is straight when you look at the side of the reed, leaning neither forward nor back

_____ The **folded edge** of the cane is neither broken nor bulging

_____ **Overlap** looks correct near where the cane meets the thread the staple on both sides

_____ **Cane touches** all the way down on the sides, no gaps, especially just above the thread

_____ The reed **seals** when the damp blank is tested for suction (put your finger and thumb over the two edges of the fold). Sometimes if the blank leaks only slightly, it will seal later after you set the overlap, so you can wait and see before discarding it.

_____ **Thread** looks relatively **neat**, no gaps

_____ **Knots** are **secure**, usually 3 or more snug knots

_____ **Thread** is also **snug**, and cannot be shifted by your thumbnail

_____ **Ears** are **removed** and sanded, and look like a continuation of the shape