



ClariNotes



Reeds, Reeds, Reeds... Conditioning and Adjusting Reeds

Conditioning (Breaking In New Reeds)

What to do when you open a new box of reeds:

1. Play each reed for 2 minutes.
2. Mark good reeds with a pencil.
3. Use a reed case or guard for storage.
4. Don't play on the same reed each day. Alternate them.
5. Have at least 4 great reeds to use at all times.

Adjusting Reeds

If the reed is too stiff:

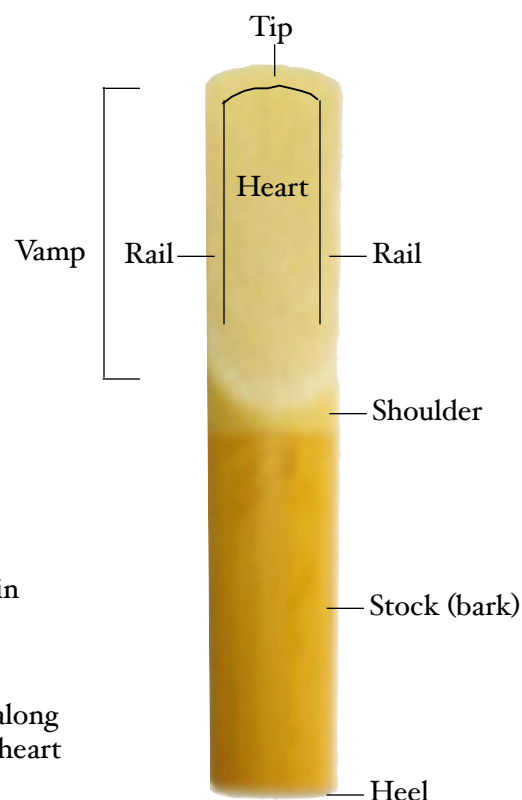
1. Using 600 weight wet/dry sandpaper, sand the back of the reed in circles. (25 circles, then rotate 180 degrees, another 25 circles)

If the reed is unbalanced (when one side is stiffer than the other):

2. Using 320 weight wet/dry sandpaper, sand the front of the reed along the rails, the tip, and right above the bark. Avoid sanding in the heart of the reed.

If the reed is too soft:

3. Use a reed trimmer to clip the tip.



REED GEEK



There is a new product out for adjusting reeds and it is called the "ReedGeek." All of the edges can be used in place of a reed knife. It is safe enough to handle without cutting yourself, but sharp enough to adjust reeds precisely without ever needing to sharpen. Each of the long edges are perfect for flattening the reed table. Three smaller edges are useful in adjusting the rails and the tip. The very edge of the ReedGeek is like having an eraser to take off small particles of wood for balancing.

About This Newsletter

My intention for this newsletter is to offer tips and techniques for teaching and playing clarinet. Feel free to contact me with topics or questions.

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