

3. Cleaning Reeds

Cleaning your reeds on a regular basis will make it last much longer.

Water Tap

Place your reed (staple end up) under a fast flowing water tap, this will push out any small particles (such as your lunch!) Do this regularly to keep the reed fresh.



Oboe Plaque/Sand Paper

Place an oboe plaque between the reed blades and slowly remove any particles. You should also use a fine grain “wet & dry” sand paper, fix up the edges, scrape and tip of the reed. If the reed looks good it often will play better.

N.B. Don't clean out your reed 10mins before the big recital.. the sound may be brighter without any contaminants in the reed and it may take some time to adjust to this !

4. Emergency Reed Adjusting Kit

Every oboist should have just a few tools for cleaning and adjusting your reeds.



“Wet & Dry” 1,000+ sand paper, Oboe Plaques, Teflon Tape, 28 Gauge Brass Wire, Small Pliers.

ORDERS

Oboe Central is located in Geelong, Australia.

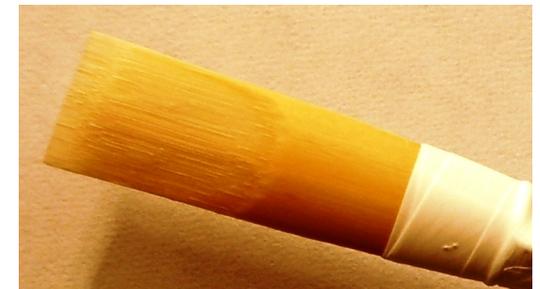
Reed making lessons, set-ups, oboe advice and full range of Reeds, Cane, Accessories, Cases, Cd's , DVD's , Reed Making Machines.

For all enquiries contact;

info@oboecentral.com.au



Mini-Guide for Adjusting Oboe Reeds



www.oboecentral.com.au

1. Getting your reed ready for playing

Wet the Reed

Place your reed into a small glass of water, with the water just covering the scraped part of the reed for 5 minutes maximum.

Set the reed aperture

The aperture (opening) of the reed affects how much resistance or how hard the reed is to play. An open aperture will require more embouchure strength than a closed aperture.

After wetting the reed, with your thumb and first finger very softly close down the aperture to your preferred opening.

Still not closed enough ? with your thumb and first finger very softly move the reed tip (in an up and down motion) 10-15degrees each way. This will close up the aperture.

Too Closed ? If the aperture is almost shut after the reed has been watered, then this reed most likely is not good and will need to be replaced.

Setting the aperture with wire

Wire on an Oboe reed provides two main functions, firstly to keep the blades from crossing and secondly to aide in the opening aperture of the reed. By closing down the wire you can create a smaller aperture and by pushing the sides of the wire, open the aperture as required.

Checking for leaks

Small leaks can occur in the binding or sides of the reed. To prevent this use Teflon Tape (plumbers tape on a roll), gold beaters skin (also called fish skin) or plastic wrap (Glad wrap cut from a roll).

The “Pop test” is a good way to check for leaks, put your finger over the bottom of the reed, and suck-the air out, a small “pop” will occur with the blades (if the reed is sealed).

Replace the tape on the reed when there is not a good seal or if it is too translucent and old.

Crow the reed

The reed should have a good solid “Crow” when blown. Consisting of upper, middle and lower partials to the sound/s.

If the reed does not crow then the scrape of the reed may not be in balance.

2. Scraping the Reed

You may need to scrape the reed to get it to work to your desired outcome. Always scrape with a plaque between the blades.

1. Overall the reed has too much resistance

First check the thickness of the tip of the reed, either by placing a plaque in or by holding it up to a light. Is it thin enough ? If the tip looks good then look to the area just behind the tip (1/2) for a light scrape and then the whole scrape overall (A-E), making sure not to take too much off the centre line of the reed.

2. Articulation is too hard

Check the tip of the reed, if this is thin enough then scrape at the 2nd mm from the tip (1/2).

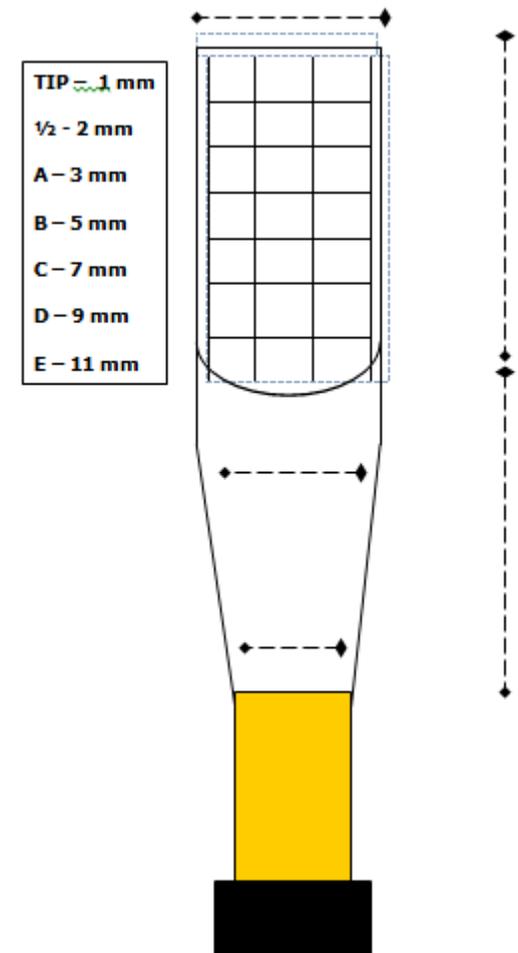
3. Unresponsive lower notes

Look to the sides of the back of the scrape in the U part of the reed (E). Light scraping here will aide in lower notes.

4. Sound is too light

First check the thickness of the tip of the reed, if this looks good, try taking some cane from the sides of the reed and then overall from the back, not the area directly behind the tip (1/2). A thin tip with a thicker area behind the tip will produce a better sound.

N.B. Whatever you take off the reed cannot be put back on, so be sure about scraping.



This free reed template can be downloaded at www.oboecentral.com.au