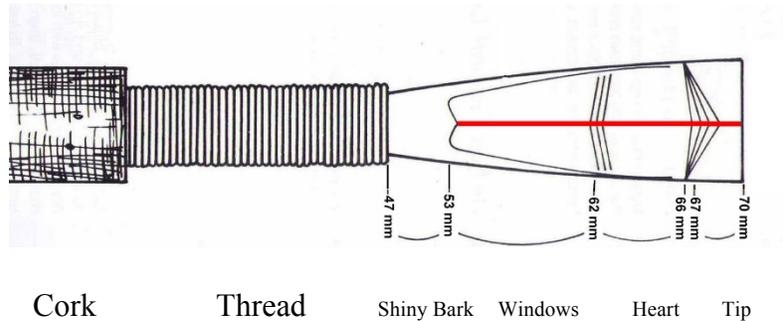


Geeking Out with Your Double Reeds

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Sometimes, we don't need tools!!

If the reed is:

Flat, loud and wild- try closing down the back, by firmly (yet gradually) closing down the shiny bark just above thread. Make sure reed is soaked before doing this! Never squeeze down the cork or the thread portions of the reed.

Flat and stiff- donate it to your local oboe teacher, who can recycle the cork.

Sharp and small feeling- soak in very warm (not hot) water. This will “save” a reed and temporarily bloom it open in a pinch.

Still nice but feels old- take a small gauge pipe cleaner, and thread the pipe cleaner through the **cork** side of the reed until it comes out the cane side. Grab the end of the pipe cleaner that has emerged out of the tip and pull it out in one motion. Do not pull the pipe cleaner back towards the bottom of the reed; this will destroy the tip.

Very flat when it wasn't yesterday- the reed has either cracked (which means time for a new reed), or the student oversoaked the reed. You can close the shiny bark down, or just let the dry out and come back to it the following day. Also make sure the reed is in all the way!!

Doesn't fit in the oboe and cork grease is not enough- you can actually delicately crush the cork in between your front two teeth. Lightly chew the cork, as you spin the reed to close it down

from all sides. This does not work on synthetic cork reeds. Don't bite hard enough to bend the staple, this is just to weaken the cork.

Sometimes, we DO need tools!!

The Reed Geek can be a terrific addition to any band room or oboist's case. Safe to have in-school or even traveling, this tool can come in quite handy. You will also need a flat plaque and contoured plaque to scrape successfully, as we almost always need support the reed when scraping. These plaques are readily available at most online retailers.

The most important section to know about scraping is what I call the Tone Zones. These are the areas of the reed designed to make a reed sound "warmer." Obviously, there is no one size fits all solution for oboe reeds, but very often, scraping here (the perimeter of the tip, highlighted in blue) can darken a reed's sound. If you can manage thinning the perimeter of the tip as well as the corners of the tip, you may be able to save a honky reed! For best results with The Reed Geek, use one of the four corner edges of the rectangle.

Use the flat plaque for the thinning the tip of the tip, and the corner of the tip.
Use the contoured plaque for thinning the sides (or rails) of the tip.

