

“Reed Making” From GSP to Blank

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- 1.) Soak Cane 1 hour
 - a. Note: When you are in the desert or high altitude, you should soak the cane overnight.

- 2.) Sand the Inside of the Cane
 - a. 400 grit, then 600 grit Sandpaper
 - b. Let the sandpaper do the work – not you!

- 3.) Place the Cane on an Easel

- 4.) Score 6 marks into the Bark of the Tube (both ends)
 - a. From just below the collar to the butt
 - b. 3 on either side of the spine (middle)
 - c. These are “score marks” ... don’t go all the way through the cane
 - d. May use an X-acto knife or a Razor Blade

- 5.) Define the Collar
 - a. Create a defined ‘ledge’ where the blade and tube meet
 - b. Use a razor blade or X-acto knife
 - c. This prevents blade cracks

- 6.) One-sided Bevel
 - a. Looking at the butt of the reed, there are four corners: two at the bark, and two on the inside. Beveling takes cane off the inside at a 45 degree angle.
 - b. Use a file, nail file, razor blade, or 220 grit sand paper on a table
 - c. Measure/Mark 3/8 inch from the butt on the RIGHT side of the tube if the butt is facing up.
 - d. File off the inner corner at a 45-degree angle from 3/8” above the butt to the butt.

e. Do the same thing with the opposing butt

7.) Fold the cane, making sure the collars match up.

8.) Wrap the Cane

- a. Use cotton twine (an arms length and $\frac{1}{2}$ is a good length)
- b. Place the reed blade (about $\frac{1}{2}$ way up) on the middle of the string
- c. Wrap one half of the string taut (not tight) all the way down towards the butt of the reed
- d. When you reach where the third wire will go, change your strength to tight, not taut.
- e. Repeat with the other half of the string
- f. This creates a cross-wrap that will prevent slipping blades
- g. Tie the strings together

9.) Soak the "Mummy" for 1-2 minutes

10.) Form the Reed

- a. Insert the Forming Mandrel
- b. Use a Constant Twisting motion (back and forth) as you continue
- c. When it gets stuck, use pliers in a top-down motion on the bottom half of the bark section ONLY. This opens the score marks.
- d. Repeat Mandrel twisting until it is far enough inserted

11.) Transfer Reed to Drying Rack.

- a. The longer it sits as a mummy, the more stable the reed

12.) Apply Wires

- a. 3rd Wire = 3/16", then unwrap the rest of the string
- b. 1st Wire = 1"
- c. 2nd Wire** = 11/32" from the 1st wire

13.) Wrap Reed

- a. Apply Duco Cement to bark from second wire to butt
- b. Apply String Wrap
- c. Apply Duco Cement over String Wrap
- d. Let Dry