Double Reed
Posted by AnneMegan - 04 Jan 2013 14:40

I'm just starting out with this system- it's not so easy! I'm ready to share with anyone who's interested.

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Re: Double Reed
Posted by Rhautbois1 - 05 Jan 2013 18:59

Hello all,

Thought maybe you would like to learn a little more about what we are doing when we make oboe reeds.

There are two files attached. One shows the raw material - reed cane in tube form. Through a variety of processes we split, cut, plane a piece of cane to three inches long and then gouge (hollow) it to .45-.6 mm thick. The cane is then folded and trimmed to a precise shape. Next the shaped cane is tied to a staple (metal tube covered in cork). Now the fun begins - using a knife you scrape the reed with a reed knife. The tip is is scraped around to .03mm - about the thickness of a piece of paper. The rest of the reed is scraped to between .40 mm and .50 mm.

It is an involved process that takes years to master and at which the oboist spends hours a week working on. Bassoonists also make their own reeds. Clarinetists and saxophonists use reed knives to touch up reeds but rarely make their own. Because of the construction of these reeds - they are easier to use manufacture by machine.

There is a direct correlation between the sharpness of the knife and quality of the reed. Wicked Edge has made a huge difference in my own reed making as many oboists around the country can now also attest.

Hope this helps,

Robert Huffman

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Re: Double Reed
Posted by mvh - 07 Jan 2013 02:10

I don't know much about reed knives, but I've seen a few of them and were sharpened by Tom Blodgett from jende Industries (who also make reed knives). I don't see a reason why a reed knife couldn't be sharpened on the WEPS. Tom's knives are done freehand and a bit convex because of it, so the edge may be more durable when scraping. He also finishes his reed knives on 15k Shapton stones.

That's all I know. hope Tom pops in to solve the mystery.

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Re: Double Reed
Posted by jendeindustries - 07 Jan 2013 07:41

Did someone mention a reed knife???

Thanks for the heads up, Michiel!

Anne, Between Robert and myself, you are in very good hands in all things reed knife. No one put up a picture of a reed knife, so I will gratuitously post one of mine.

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Re: Double Reed
Posted by leomitch - 07 Jan 2013 16:33

Ah! There you are mate! You have been missed Tom. Good to have you back from your world travels

and other travails!! With you and Robert we have the double reed world in good hands!

Very best regards

Leo

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Re: Double Reed

Posted by jendeindustries - 07 Jan 2013 17:15

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Thanks, Leo! It's good to be back!

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