

# **THE REED CLINIC**

## **A WORKSHOP GUIDE**

for

## **Chanter & Drone Reeds**

By

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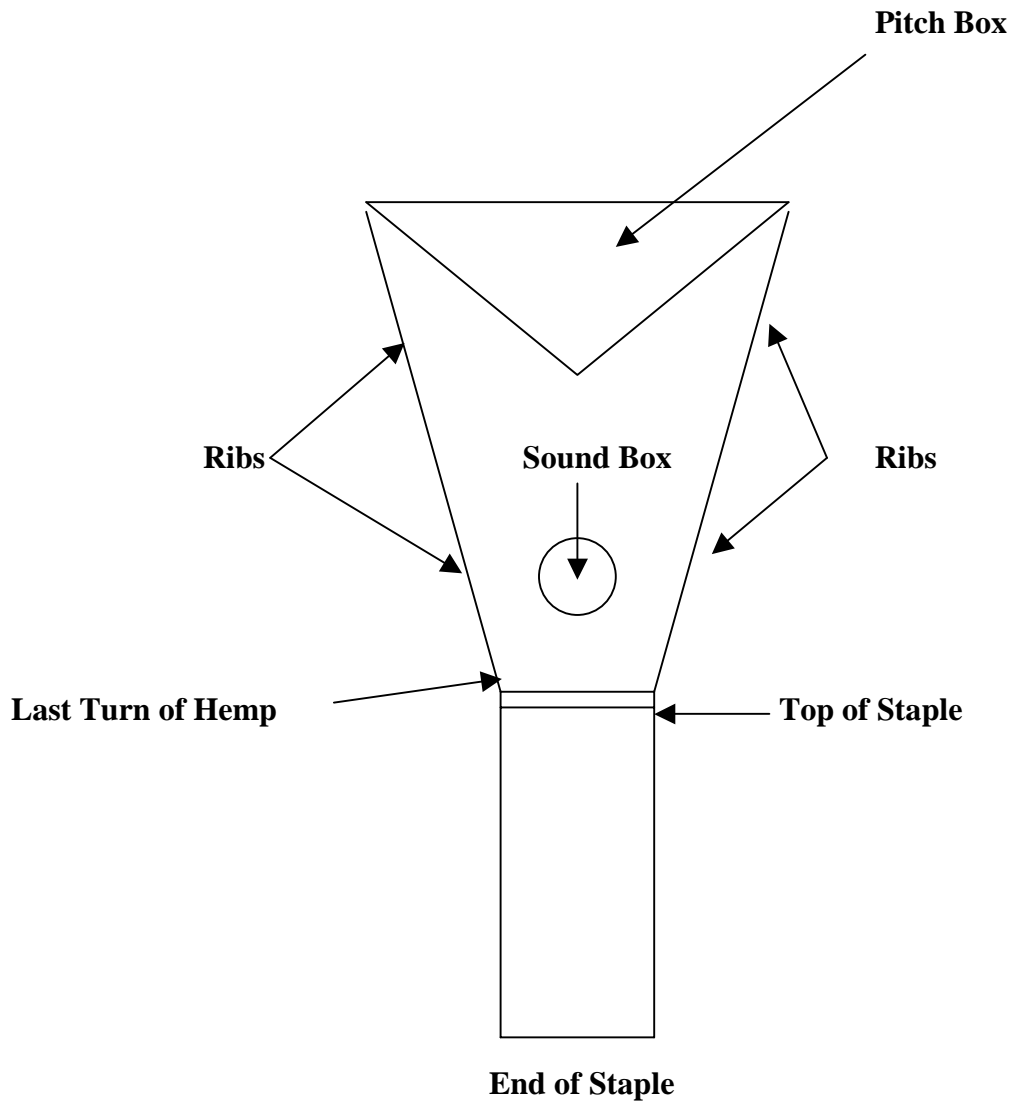
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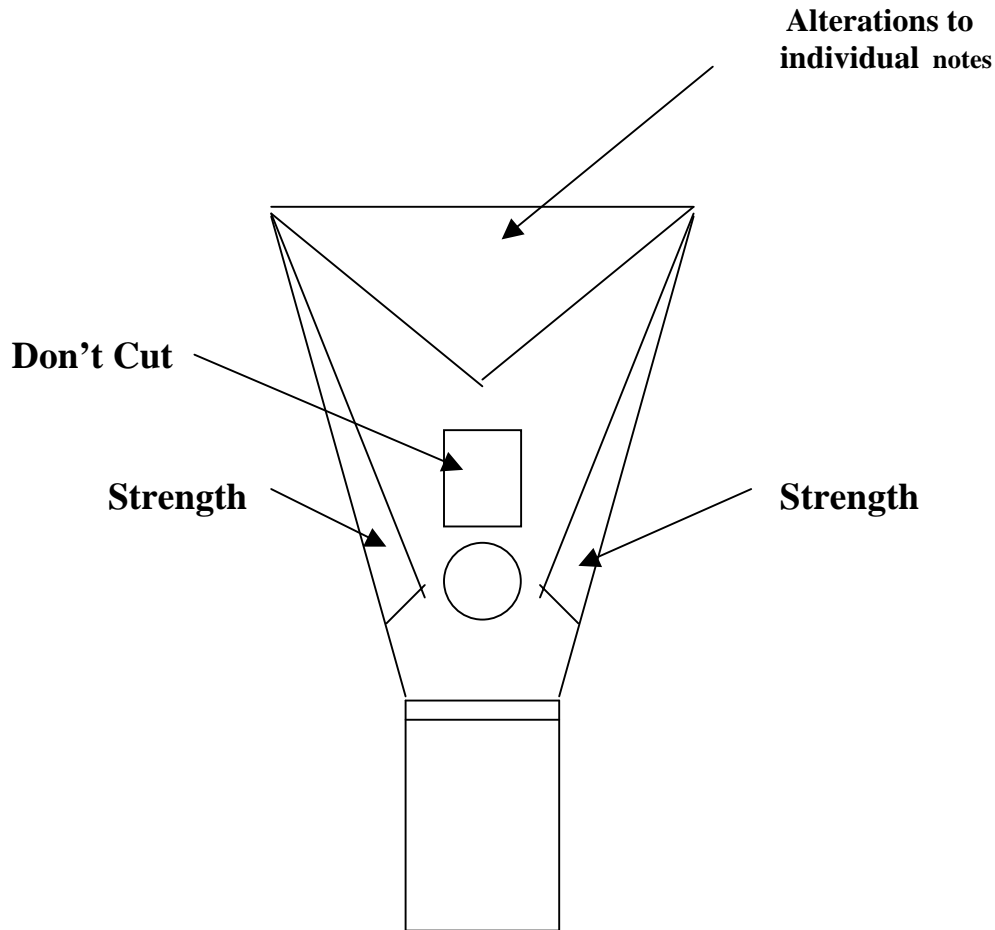
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# Pipe Chanter Reeds



- Reed Setup**
- 1. Seating**
  - 2. Pitching and Pitch Range**
  - 3. Use of meter**
  - 4. Different Chanter – different Sound**
  - 5. Use of tape – pro and con**
  - 6. Moisture protection**
  - 7. Handling**



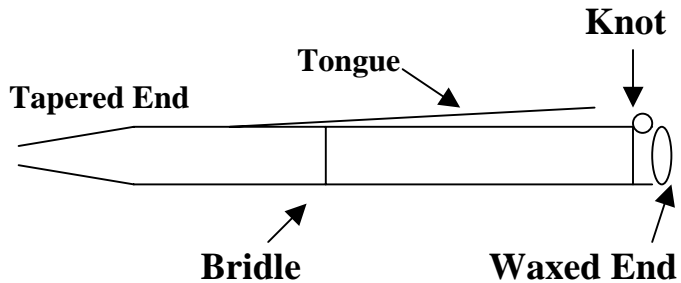
1. **These alterations will work for the tapered ridge cut styled reed like Warnock and Shepherd, but not advisable for the shouldered reeds like MacAllister.**
2. **Removing cane from the top V will flatten notes successively from the High A down. However, this technique is not too sensitive after F.**
3. **Removing cane from the sides marked “strength” will make the reed easier.**
4. **Do not remove cane from the “don’t cut” area. This will significantly reduce the life of the reed and possibly cause double-toning of F.**
5. **Shortening the blades at the top will make the reed sharper, harder and perhaps increase the volume.**
6. **Open the staple with a mandrel to flatten top hand notes and strengthen the reed**

**Top hand will be affected more severely than bottom hand.**

## Drone Reed Setup

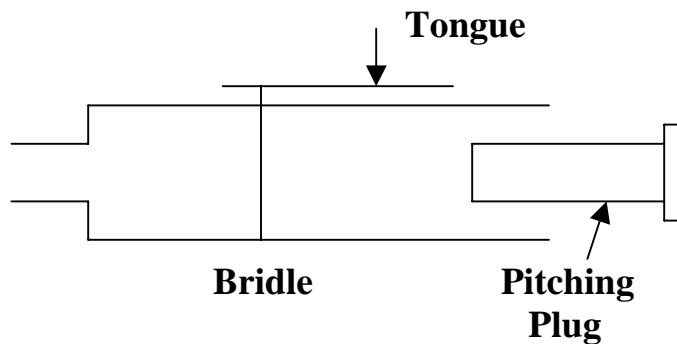
### The Cane Reed

1. Volume control
2. Pitch control
3. Reed seat concerns
4. Moisture concerns



### The Synthetic Drone Reed

1. Different types
2. Degrees of freedom
3. Volume control
4. Pitch control
5. Reed seat concerns
6. Moisture concerns
7. Tongue concerns
8. Adjustment concerns
9. Test for Volume balance



## The Drone Reed Clinic

- |                                  |  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>1. Won't Sound</b>            | Tongue too tight<br>Don't Flick Tongue Manually without first bracing the tongue | a) Back off bridle<br>b) use hair under tongue |
| <b>2. Reed sounds, but stops</b> |  | Same as above                                  |
| <b>3. Tunes too Low</b>          | Tongue too long  | Shorten tongue length                          |
| <b>4. Double Tones</b>           | Tongue too long<br>Tongue too heavy  | Loosen bridle                                  |
| <b>5. Tunes too high</b>         | Tongue too short   | Lengthen tongue length                         |
| <b>6. Roars</b>                  | Tongue too open  | Shorten tongue length                          |