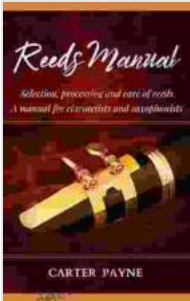


# Selection, Processing, and Care of Reeds: The Ultimate Guide for Clarinetists and Saxophonists



## Reeds Manual: Selection, processing and care of reeds. A manual for clarinetists and saxophonists

by Richard Wagner

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language	: English
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Reeds are essential for the production of sound on clarinets and saxophones. The quality of the reed can greatly affect the tone, intonation, and overall performance of the instrument. Therefore, it is important for clarinetists and saxophonists to have a good understanding of how to select, process, and care for reeds.

This comprehensive manual provides detailed instructions and expert guidance on all aspects of reed selection, processing, and care. Whether you are a beginner or a seasoned professional, you will find valuable information in this book.

## **Chapter 1: Reed Selection**

The first step in getting a great sound from your clarinet or saxophone is to choose the right reed. There are many factors to consider when selecting a reed, including the strength, cut, and material.

### **Reed Strength**

Reed strength refers to the thickness of the reed. The strength of a reed is measured in numbers, with higher numbers indicating thicker reeds.

Thicker reeds produce a darker, more mellow sound, while thinner reeds produce a brighter, more articulate sound.

The strength of the reed that you need will depend on the instrument you are playing, your playing style, and your personal preferences. Beginners typically start with a softer reed (e.g., a strength 2 or 3), while more experienced players may prefer a harder reed (e.g., a strength 4 or 5).

### **Reed Cut**

Reed cut refers to the shape of the reed. There are two main types of reed cuts: French cut and American cut.

French cut reeds are wider at the tip than American cut reeds. This gives them a brighter, more focused sound. American cut reeds are narrower at the tip than French cut reeds. This gives them a darker, more mellow sound.

The type of reed cut that you choose will depend on your personal preferences. Some players prefer the brighter sound of French cut reeds, while others prefer the darker sound of American cut reeds.

## **Reed Material**

Reeds are made from a variety of materials, including cane, bamboo, and synthetic materials. Cane reeds are the most common type of reed, and they are known for their rich, warm sound. Bamboo reeds are less common, but they are known for their durability and resistance to moisture.

Synthetic reeds are made from a variety of materials, including plastic and carbon fiber. They are known for their consistency and long lifespan. However, they do not have the same rich sound as cane reeds.

The type of reed material that you choose will depend on your personal preferences and budget. Cane reeds are the most traditional and offer the richest sound. However, they are also the most expensive and require the most care.

## **Chapter 2: Reed Processing**

Once you have chosen the right reed, you need to process it before you can use it. Reed processing involves several steps, including soaking, shaving, and adjusting.

### **Soaking**

The first step in reed processing is to soak the reed in water. This will help to soften the reed and make it more pliable. The reed should be soaked for at least 10 minutes, but no longer than 30 minutes.

### **Shaving**

Once the reed has been soaked, you need to shave it. Shaving involves using a reed knife to remove excess material from the reed. This will help

to create a more even surface and improve the response of the reed.

There are several different ways to shave a reed. The most common method is to use a straight reed knife. However, you can also use a curved reed knife or a razor blade.

When shaving a reed, it is important to be careful not to remove too much material. If you shave too much material, the reed will be too thin and will not produce a good sound.

## **Adjusting**

Once the reed has been shaved, you may need to adjust it to get the perfect fit for your instrument. This may involve sanding the reed, adjusting the tip, or changing the angle of the reed.

Sanding the reed can help to create a more even surface and improve the response of the reed. Adjusting the tip can help to change the intonation of the reed. Changing the angle of the reed can help to adjust the amount of resistance that the reed produces.

## **Chapter 3: Reed Care**

Once you have selected and processed your reed, it is important to take care of it to ensure that it lasts as long as possible. Reed care involves several steps, including storing the reed properly, cleaning the reed regularly, and repairing the reed when necessary.

### **Storing the Reed Properly**

When not in use, reeds should be stored in a cool, dry place. The reed should be protected from moisture and direct sunlight. The best way to

store a reed is in a reed case or humidior.

## **Cleaning the Reed Regularly**

Reeds should be cleaned regularly to remove saliva and other debris. The reed can be cleaned using a reed brush or a soft cloth. It is important to be careful not to damage the reed when cleaning it.

## **Repairing the Reed When Necessary**

Reeds will eventually need to be repaired. The most common repair is to replace the tip of the reed. This can be done using a reed knife or a razor blade.

If the reed is badly damaged, it may need to be replaced. Reeds should be replaced when they become too thin, too thick, or too cracked.

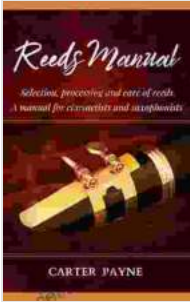
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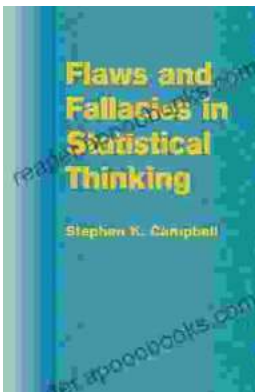
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