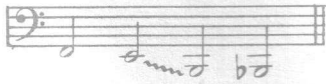
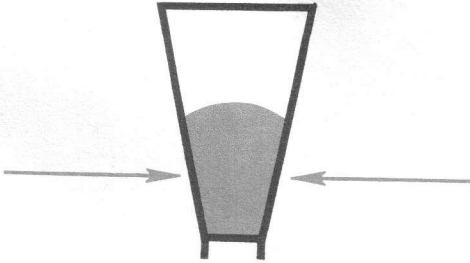


4.



If these notes do not respond easily, trim the blades here.



Test for results:



5.



If these notes collapse or will not speak easily, trim to correct softness as described above.

Test for results:



CARE OF THE REED

One common cause of reed failure is improper care. A few precautions will help to extend the life of a reed.

Always soak the reed thoroughly before playing. If the reed has not been played for some time, soak it 5 to 7 minutes. If it has

been in regular use, 2 to 3 minutes should be sufficient. It is important not to oversoak the reed, as this will cause the cane to swell abnormally. Some wrappings are not properly waterproofed, so it might be advisable to soak the reed to the first wire only.

After playing, wipe the reed carefully between the thumb and forefinger. Be sure that the reed is put where it can dry out between playings. Many student bassoonists keep their reeds in glass or plastic shipping tubes. These do not allow enough air to circulate around the reed and mildew often results. A reed case may be improvised from a cigarette tin or discarded cuff-link box, or purchased commercially. It should hold at least three reeds and fit easily into the instrument case.

If you break an old reed apart, the inside of the blades will look coated. This is a residue of saliva sediment, tiny food particles, and dirt. While this may seem unappetizing, it is this very substance which makes a reed feel stable and gives it a good solid tone. It accounts for the difference in feel between a new reed and one that is "broken-in." While desirable to a certain degree, this coating may become too heavy and it will be necessary to clean some out. Never draw anything through the reed to do this job. Turn the water tap on full force and allow it to flush the reed out from the inside. This will remove some of the coating evenly and leave the rest in the reed.

Let the reed rest periodically. Two or three reeds alternated will last longer than the same number used separately. This also prevents reliance on any one reed.

Remember that every reed needs to be adjusted to the individual player and instrument. A little practice at trimming and adjusting should produce good results and will certainly make playing the bassoon a happier experience for your students.

