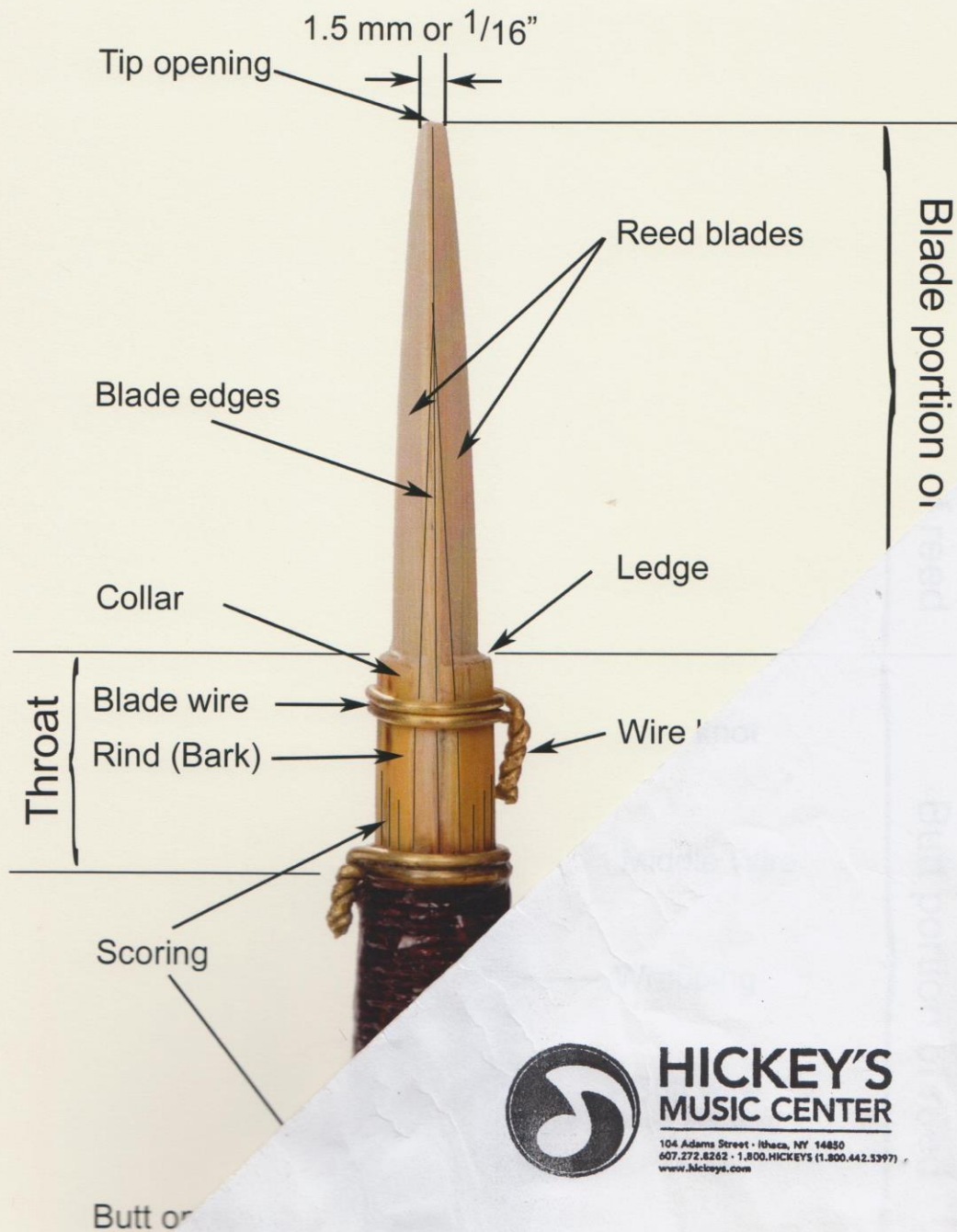


BASSOON REED MAKING: AN ILLUSTRATED BASIC METHOD

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Bassoon Reed Making: An Illustrated Basic Method
PARTS OF THE BASSOON REED



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Chapter One

Preparing to Make Reeds

We'll begin with gouged, shaped and profiled – "GSP" - cane. It can be obtained from double reed suppliers. You will not need to buy a shaper or profiler. After you have learned to make reeds, you can decide which kind of shaper or profiler to purchase. A bassoon teacher can assist you with those decisions too.

You will most likely get cane that is gouged at about 1.25mm (.050" - fifty thousandths of an inch). The cane should be 120mm (4 & 3/4") in length. Order cane that is slightly eccentrically gouged. The sides of the cane are slightly thinner than the center.

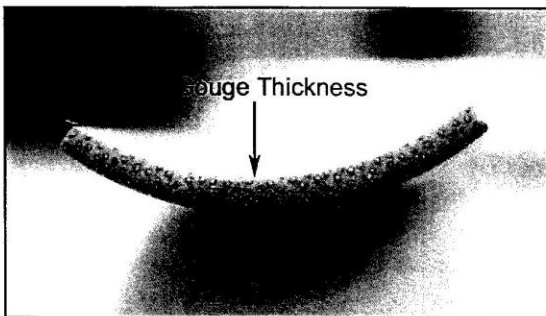


Figure 1. The thickness of the gouge is illustrated on this unshaped cane blank.

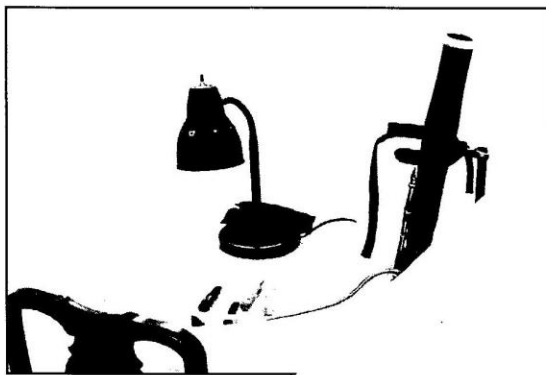


Figure 2. Work area.

Create a work area
store them safe!
Have a sturdy
armless chair

the bassoon. If using a corner, put non-skid material down to keep the bassoon from slipping.

REED MAKING TOOLS

Specialized reed making tools available at double reed retailers are starred (*). The other tools can be obtained from hardware, hobby or art supply stores.

- * Gouged, shaped and profiled (GSP) bassoon cane
- "Duco" brand cement
- Binder clips, 3/4" wide
- * Drying rack with removable mandrel tips
- * Easel (or make your own – see next page)
- Emery cloth
- * Jeweler's size end nippers, jaw width 20mm (3/4")
- Flat file for metal
- Jeweler's size triangular file with rough edges
where file faces meet to allow sawing
- Nail file, pocket size
- Small round rasp, rat-tailed
- * Single or double hollow-gr
- Utility knife
- * Forming mandrel
- * Mandrel with
- Clear nail
- * Plate
- *



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Apply the blade wire as you did the previous wires.

The knot should be on the side opposite the middle wire knot.

CLIPPING THE TIP

Soak the blades before clipping.

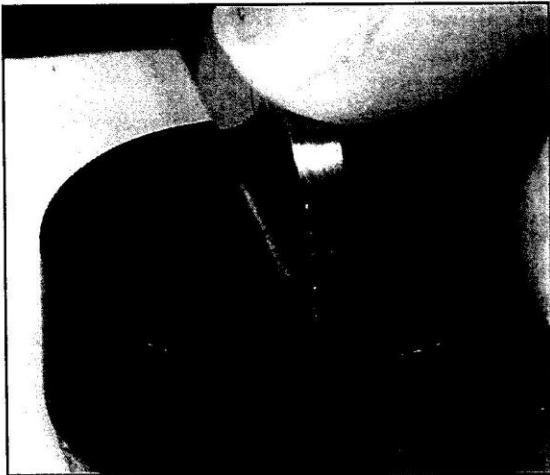


Figure 72. Clipping the tip with a knife and block. Look directly down at the tip as you cut. Rock the knife up and down a little but hold the reed steady as you cut.

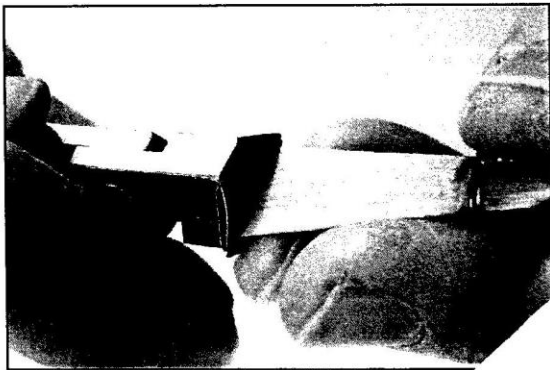


Figure 73. Using a tip clipper. Instead of a knife you can use these jeweler's end nippers. Position the jaws carefully, much or on an angle.

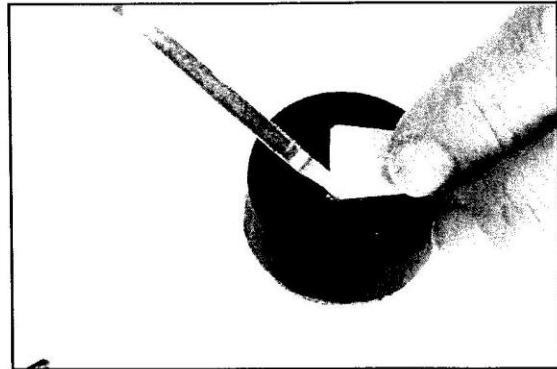
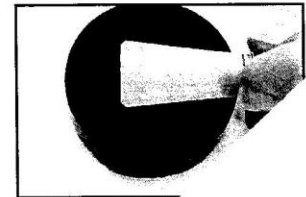


Figure 74. Cut each corner of the tip.

After clipping make very small 45 degree cuts in each tip corner.

Figure 75. The corners are clipped.

These cuts improve high note response and help prevent fraying at the corners.



If the butt section has shrunk, tighten the wire. Tighten the blade wire if it is loose. Tightening it so much that you pull it toward the middle wire with

Figure 76. Soak the entire reed.

From this point soak the entire reed, not just the room water mixture.



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