



Thank you for your purchase! I hope you enjoy playing on your new reeds. Here are a couple of things to know to help keep your reeds playing in top shape for longer:


Soaking your reeds

Reeds must be soaked prior to playing. Soak in warm water as you put your instrument together

- Soak for one minute in a dry and/or cold climate
- Quick dip and let sit for one minute in a moist and/or warm climate
- Do not soak in saliva, this breaks down the cane more quickly

Reshaping the opening

During travel, the opening of the reed may change shape

- Once the reed is soaked, you may gently use your fingers to create an opening in this shape: 
- When you gently squeeze the reed closed, the sides should close first and evenly and the center last. If this is not the case, use your fingers to **very gently** manipulate the opening, squeezing the sides together and encouraging the center to open.
- Never push the reed beyond its own strength, let the cane guide you in the amount of pressure you use-it is often less than you think.

While playing

- Be mindful of your reed at all times, especially when resting. It is easy for a reed to be chipped on the stand, your shoulder, or your tooth. Take your reed out and place it upright on the stand or in your case for tacet movements/especially long rests.
- Take care of your equipment and your equipment will take care of you!
- Remember to use a good embouchure (corners in) and do not bite your reed.

After playing

- Blow gently through the bottom of the reed to clear excess moisture.
- Allow the reed to be mostly dry before putting it in the case, moisture can lead it to mold.
- Get a reed case to store your reeds- do not store them in the plastic shipping tubes.
- Keep the reed in your reed case when not being used.

Other general advice

- If the reed has a crack in either blade, it is time for a new reed! Do not waste your energy playing on a cracked reed, you will develop poor habits.
- Anticipate your needs, do not wait until you only have one reed left to purchase new reeds. This eliminates the panic of having no usable reeds.
- Aim to have at least 3-5 reeds that you would play a concert on at all times.