



Smallpipe, Borderpipe & Northumbrian pipe Drone Reeds

The same techniques can be used on smallpipe and borderpipe drone reeds as Highland pipe drone reeds but obviously they are much more fragile, *be very gentle with them.*

Be very careful when inserting the reeds into the drone reed seats and if necessary add or remove hemp to ensure a snug airtight fit.

Due to the variety of designs I have changed the way I test and set my reeds in the hope of covering most designs.

I have done this by making the reeds so that they tune very low in my 'test set' allowing a wider tuning range

Note; Hemp may need to be added for the reed to fit your reed seats.

Reed too flat

- 1) Move the bridle by very small degrees away from the reed seat thus making the reed tongue shorter.
- 2) If the reed is still too flat then small amounts of the sealing wax on the tongue can be removed, again very small amounts.

I suggest option 1 before removing the sealing wax.

Reed too sharp

- 1) Push the bridle towards the reed seat thus making the tongue longer.
- 2) Add more weight to the tongue, either sealing wax or beeswax can be used. 'Blutack' as a last resort.

Final Note

Do not rely on mouth blowing the reed in the drone, replace the drone into the pipes then try again.

The reason for this is the mouth does not accurately replicate the internals of a common stock or the amount of air being blown onto a reed, it is far better being tried in the pipes.

If you have any problems or questions then please contact me.

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