

Reed Making Tools and Sources

The following list includes all the tools you will need to form reed blanks (starting with gouged, shaped and profiled cane), as well as for adjusting reeds. In many cases, I am including the brand of tool that I prefer, and the source of the tool. There are certainly other fine options, but I have found the ones listed here to be of very high quality and reliability. It is particularly important to get reamers and mandrels of high quality, since cheaper ones can cause irreversible problems in all your reeds and how they fit on the bocal.

*Indicates this tool is used in adjusting reeds.

#Indicates this tool is used in forming blanks.

- #Gouged, shaped and profiled bassoon cane. I recommend trying all four types: the Herzberg shape and profile "A" from Craig Vandewater, <http://craigsreeds.com/About-Craig.htm>, email: craigsreeds@gmail.com. Shape #2 from Arundo Reeds and Cane; Shape #14 from Miller Marketing; and Albion Cane from Forrests: <http://www.forrestsmusic.com/>.
- #21 gauge wire (Most bassoon wire is 22 gauge. The thicker wire provides better support for the reed). Available at: www.charlesmusic.com.
- #An easel or dowel at least 5" long and 3/4" diameter. This can be homemade from a broom stick, or you may purchase the Maple Easel (#I-04) from Forrests: <http://www.forrestsmusic.com/>.
- #Sharp, large scissors
- *#320, 400 and 600 grade Wet-or-Dry sand paper from a hardware store.
- *#You will need a forming mandrel and a holding mandrel. You can get an excellent forming mandrel from Barrick Stees by ordering a pin vise and one mandrel pin <http://www.steesbassoon.com/products.htm>; and a holding (short) mandrel from any other source; OR a Popkin double ended mandrel from www.charlesmusic.com.
- *Reamer by Barrick Stees: <http://www.steesbassoon.com/products.htm>
- *A Rieger diamond reamer from <http://www.millermarketingco.com/>.

- ***#Pliers – Linesman version. 4.5" with spring return and cutter. Wide jaw holds wire securely for easy twisting of wires.**
www.millermarketingco.com Model # 2XPL
- **#Finger nail polish**
- **#Heat shrink tubing, 3/8" diameter (available at electronic supply stores like Bantam Electronics in Austin, or online - it is cheaper in the long tubes, rather than the small pieces from double reed companies).**
- **#A candle and matches**
- ***#Ruler in inches**
- **#A narrow, round shoelace or thin cotton crochet yarn.**
- **#For scoring: A drill tap with or without handle available at hardware stores. Eric Miller sells them already assembled: estonemiller@gmail.com. The tap I use is 1/4-28 NF. This means it is 1/4" diameter, 28 threads per inch. The NF or NC are two possibilities on most bolt sizes, meaning coarse or fine thread. Most any tap 1/4" or larger with 24-30 threads per inch will do. It should be sharp also... most inexpensive generic hardware store ones are not great. Nut and bolt shops are the places to go. If you have the option, get the "bottoming" tap. Each tap kit comes with three taps of gradual tapers. The bottoming one, (used as the final one when tapping threads in a hole that doesn't go all the way through the object) has the least amount of taper. This one will have the best teeth for scoring cane.**
- ***Reed scraping knife by Rieger - Double hollow ground design with specially hardened steel to maintain a sharp edge; flat sided walnut handle for comfort that will not roll off table; a short blade for precise scraping; from www.millermarketingco.com.**
- ***Tool Wallet. You can use a cosmetic case, or purchase the Albion tool case (#V-17) from www.forrestsmusic.com.**
- ***Bassoon Tip Cutter (#B-33) from www.forrestsmusic.com.**
- ***Bassoon Arrow Plaque by Fox (#G-13-F) from www.forrestsmusic.com.**
- ***Diamond needle files, one flat surfaced, and one rat-tail.**

