**Never Have a Bad Reed Again! How to Make and Adjust Your Own Clarinet Reeds**

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### Cane Selection

- **French cane from the Var region**
  - Marion, Rigotti, Donati
  - There are many other cane plantations as well
    - Marion and Rigotti cane – about 50 €/kilo
- **Check the diameter of the cane**
  - AW Reedmaking Tools diameter gauge - $30
  - Circle diameter sheet from a craft store, in millimeters

### Making a Blank

- **Make sure you are wearing gloves**
- **Split the cane**
  - Chisel and rubber mallet - $15-20
  - Reeds n’ Stuff Cane splitter – 127 € (probably not worth it)
- **Locate the straightest and flattest sections**
- **Measuring/trimming cane**
  - Stanley clamping miter box with saw - $15
    - **Pros** – cheap
    - **Cons** – makes the cane split, hands can cramp up, not very precise cuts
  - Coping saw and vice - $15-$20
    - **Pros** – cheap and safe, does not hurt hands
    - **Cons** – takes a long time to measure, less precise cuts
  - Reed guillotine – Reeds n’ Stuff
- **Planing/gouging**
  - Greg James planer (can include a vamp cutter) - $150
    - **Needs** a block plane – Veritas low angle block plane - $155
    - Custom order
- **Shaping**
  - Greg James shaper and holder – approx. $200
    - Additional shapers are $180
    - Need to use a chisel – Lee Valley - $15
  - Reed Machine shaper (labeled as a profiler) - $200
    - Needs a chisel or utility knife
  - Reeds n’ Stuff shaping machine - 897 €
    - 1-2 months (mine took almost 6 months!)
    - Includes its own blades
    - Shapes any size single reed from E-flat clarinet to Baritone saxophone
• **Sanding**
  - Plate glass - $5-10
  - Sandpaper of various grits (220, 400, 600 at least)
    - Norton 3X ProSand – box of 20 sheets $14-$20
  - Constantly check the thickness of the blank
    - Digital calipers - $20

**Preparing a Blank for Profiling**

• Pre-made clarinet blanks (if not making your own)

• Pre-profiling
  - Utility knife - $6
  - Reeds n’ Stuff Pre-profiler cutter - 200 €

**Profiling**

• Profiling machines
  - Reedual - $995 – can copy all single reeds
    - Requires sandpaper and vacuum cleaner
    - Norton 3X ProSand – 220 grit - $14/20 sheets
  - Reed Machine
  - AW Reedmaking Tools Reed Profiler RPM 82 - $1700
    - Includes a guide of your choice, extra guide sizes (tenor, etc. are $240)

**Testing Results/Adjusting**

• Testing results with a reed gauge
  - Jeanne Reed Gauge - $325
    - get one that reads in millimeters
  - PerfectaReed - $300
    - All single reeds, only measures in inches

• Clipping/trimming
  - Cordier - $40-$50
  - Vandoren - $140

• Adjusting
  - ReedGeek - $65
  - Reed knife - $50-$100
  - Sandpaper – see above

**Optional Reed-Making Techniques/Steps**

• **Hardness tester**
  - Reeds n’ Stuff – 420 €

• **Density testing**
  - Scientific scale - $35
**Recommended Resources**


Clarinet Reedmaking – www.clarinetreedmaking.com

Earspasm Music. “How to Work on Clarinet/Sax Reeds Like a Pro!” YouTube video

**Tool and Tube Cane Suppliers**

  - Reed Profiler RPM82, guides, and reed blanks
- Precision Reed Products – www.reedual.com
  - Reedual single reed profiler, planer and shaper
- The Reed Machine – www.thereedmachine.net
  - Reed Machine, planer, profilers
- Reeds n’ Stuff – www.reedsnstuff.com
  - Shapers, gouging machines, cane guillotine, reed blanks, hardness tester
- Lee Valley Tools – www.leevalley.com
  - Veritas low angle block plane, chisels, sandpaper
- Woodcraft – www.woodcraft.com
  - Woodriver low angle block plane
- Jeanné Inc. – www.jeanne-inc.com
  - Jeanne reed gauge
- The Reed Wizard – www.reedwizard.com
  - PerfectaReed reed gauge
  - Marion and Rigotti tube cane, reed blanks
- Donati Reeds – www.donati-reeds.com
  - Tube cane – need to contact directly to order

**Contact Information**

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