

Workflow for Processing Oboe Cane:

*** If you oversoak your cane, you **must** let it dry overnight and then try again. Do not work with oversoaked cane. ***

Perform these steps with **dry cane**:

1. Split
2. Sort (discard all warped pieces)
3. Guillotine
4. Flatness test (use radius gauge)
5. Pregouge

Soak pregouged cane for 60 minutes **maximum**. After soaking:

6. Diameter test (discard all cane wider than 11 mm)
7. Gouge
8. Shape (could let cane dry after gouging; if so, then soak 20 minutes **maximum** before shaping)

STOP. Let the cane rest overnight before making reeds. You could continue if necessary.

If dry, soak shaped cane 20 minutes **maximum** before tying.

9. Tie reed – 47 mm staple, total length between 72-73 mm. Start tip at 66 mm.
 - a. Initial steps:
 - i. Put ample beeswax on the thread before tying.
 - ii. Line up the cane on the staple at the correct length; keep the flat part of the cane on the flat part of the staple.
 - iii. Slightly overlap the two blades before tying.
 - iv. Tie the reed, putting the crossover thread on the flat.
 - v. Rub beeswax into the knots after tying.
 - vi. Remove ears, file top 1/3 of reed parallel.
 - vii. Mark sides of reed with a pencil at 66 mm.
 - b. Scraping steps:
 - i. Remove bark from tip, starting 1 mm below your pencil mark.
 - ii. Remove bark from heart (start 2/3 of the way towards the thread); blend into tip.
 - iii. Clip reed open, set overlap
 - iv. Insert plaque; scrape tip to 50% of finished thickness, starting exactly at 66 mm.
 - v. Lightly scrape the heart again, blending into the tip.
 - vi. The reed should have a single, smooth slope, and should crow freely. If not, thin the tip a little more.

STOP. The reed must rest overnight before continuing to the finishing stages.