

## Workflow for Processing Oboe Cane: (Reeds 'n' Stuff gouger)

*\*\* 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)

Soak cane for 30 minutes maximum. After soaking (re-wet as needed):

1. Diameter test (discard all cane wider than 11 mm. The new gouger is very strict on this)
2. Pregouge (watch for papercuts)
3. Gouge
4. 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.

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

5. Tie reed – 47 mm staple, total length between 72-73 mm (if reeds are flat, tie longer; if reeds are sharp, tie shorter; always 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.