

Basic Reed Storage and Care Supplies:

High quality reed case:

- D'Addario Reed Guard
- D'Addario Multi-Instrument Reed Case
- Selmer Reed Case Clarinet/Alto Sax – Holds 10-12 Reeds
- Vandoren Reed Case
- Vandoren Hydro-Reed Case

Boveda Humidity Packs:

- 62%rH – 72%rH
- 8-gram packs (Fits D'Addario multi-instrument case)
for storing less than 20 reeds
- 60-gram pack
for storing more than 20 reeds

-MOLD LOVES 70%rH and 70+Degrees Fahrenheit-

Basic tools for flattening the reed table:

- Vandoren Reed Resurfacers

Basic Reed Break In and Playing Guidelines:

Think ahead! When is the next performance? Start breaking in new reeds two weeks ahead of the performance date. Usually, breaking in 5 reeds at a time every two weeks is a safe habit for ensuring good performance reeds are always ready.

Go easy on new reeds! For the first 5-7 days, play on a new reed for less than 2-3 minutes. Avoid waterlogging the reed!

Play on the newest reeds when doing long tones. Treat new reeds gently, no excessively loud or high register playing.

If a reed is too resistant to allow for playing with a good sound, fundamentals or takes excessive compensation, rotated to a different reed.

After 5-7 days, start playing reed for longer a duration. 10-20 minutes is ok, but check the reed constantly to ensure it is not becoming waterlogged.

As much as reasonably possible, rotate reeds every 30-40 minutes during rehearsals. Reeds don't recover well from excessive use, no matter how broken in. An hour and a half rehearsal on one reed will likely destroy the rigidity of xylems, water log the reed and the reed will not have the same resistance or "ping" the next day or ever again.

Regularly check your humidity pack. They do eventually dry out and become “crispy”, especially in use with the D'Addario Multi-Instrument Reed Case. Once a humidity pack has dried out, it cannot be effectively revived.

It's OK to play a softer or harder reed! If it works, use it. Keep a few reeds that are a little softer and a little harder ready to go. If you play a 3.5, keep a few #3.5+ and #3's close by. This helps tremendously when the weather changes or on “bad” reed days.

If you must adjust, only dust! Making slight changes to a reed each day ensures no mistakes are made. Each day, reeds will change for the worse and BETTER! Small adjustments take only a little time, maximizing your practice. Over the course of 5-7 days, a reed that doesn't get better regardless of adjustments is not worth your time. Throw it out!

Use your mouthpiece cap! The mouthpiece cap does help trap some moisture around the reed. This helps tremendously when the instrument is not played during long rests, or during rehearsals when long periods of time are spent focusing on other instrument sections.

Using metal mouthpiece caps is strongly discouraged

Storing your mouthpiece in a metal cap can damage the mouthpiece

Légère synthetic reeds ARE a viable option. Before ordering any synthetic reeds, keep in mind that they don't quite play with the same resistance as cane reeds. It is strongly encouraged to try multiple strengths before purchase. Légère reeds tend to run ½ strength softer than cane reeds, though this is an entirely subjective observation and may not be your personal experience. The Légère European cut is highly regarded as the most “cane like” synthetic reed in production.

Additional Reed Resources:

David Bourque: *Working the Single Reed*
www.davidbourque.ca/publications

Larry Guy: [Selection, Adjustment, and Care of Single Reeds](http://www.vcisinc.com/reeds.htm)
www.vcisinc.com/reeds.htm

Barrick Stees: *Cane Microscopy*
<http://steesbassoon.blogspot.com/2017/12/cane-microscopy.html>

Fred Ormand: [The Single Reed Adjustment Manual](http://www.vcisinc.com/reeds.htm)
www.vcisinc.com/reeds.htm