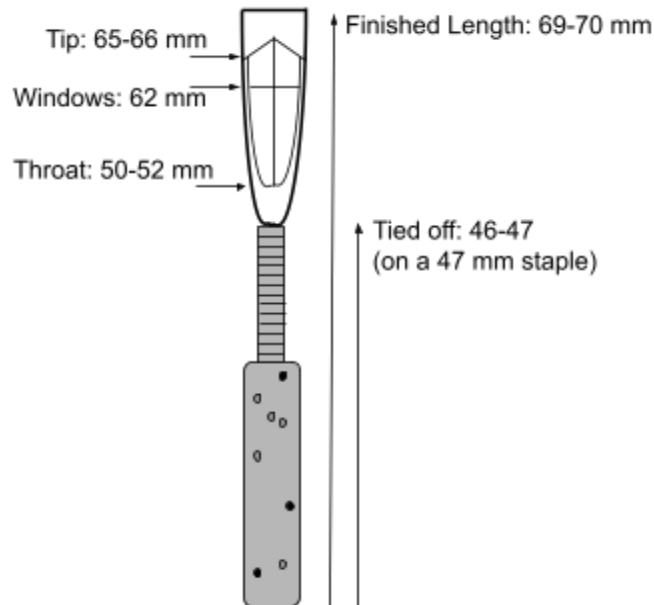


Reed-Making: Basic Adjusting

This guide has been designed to help beginner reed-makers adjust and finish reeds. Adjusting and finishing oboe reeds is much more complicated and nuanced than this guide provides, but these basic ideas are a great starting point.



Terms:

Positive scraping= adding vibration and sound

- More blend and unity needed
- Tip: knife rolled to the middles

Negative scraping= subtracting vibration and sound

- More definition and separation needed
- Tip: knife rolled to edges

Crow

- the crow (noun): the sound a reed makes when you crow it
- to crow (verb): placing the throat of the reed on the center of your bottom lip, and blowing a fast airstream.

Ha Ha Test

- With the reed in crowing position find the threshold of response
- Start with too little air to create sound, and add in until it finally speaks gently
- Goal: threshold for the Ha Ha is reached easily with gentle effort

1 to 2 Test

- Crow the reed with an airstream shaped as a *pp-ff* crescendo.
- Sound a high C and then add in the low C.
- Goal- reed crows from 1 to 2 quickly and easily

REED-MAKING PRIORITIES

- 1) RESPONSE
- 2) PITCH
- 3) TONE

Ensuring a good and comfortable response that crows up to pitch will usually result in a nice tone.

1) RESPONSE-

Crow the Reed

- **No sound**

Not a reed yet>>Positive scraping needed

- Make the whole reed thinner
- Ensure the tip is thinner than the body

- **1 sound**

Needs to be more vibrant>>Positive scraping needed

- Thin the tip
- Scrape the body

- ***2 sounds (our goal)***

Great! Now check the comfort with the 1 to 2 test

- 1 is resistant/slow to start
 - Scrape the final 0.5-1 mm of the tip
 - Scrape the corners of the tip
- 2 is resistant/slow to add in
 - Thin the tip
 - Scrape the channels

- **3+ sounds**

Needs to be refined>>Negative scraping needed

- Scrape the shoulders
- Thin the sides/corners of the tip
- Define the tip

2) PITCH

Crow the Reed

- Flat
 - Is it hard or comfortable?
 - Hard: massage the back, scrape the back, or square the W
 - Comfortable: clip the tip
- Sharp
 - Is it hard or comfortable?
 - Hard: Go back to 1) RESPONSE
 - Comfortable:
 - Plays in tune in the oboe: leave it
 - Plays sharp in the oboe: scrape the body

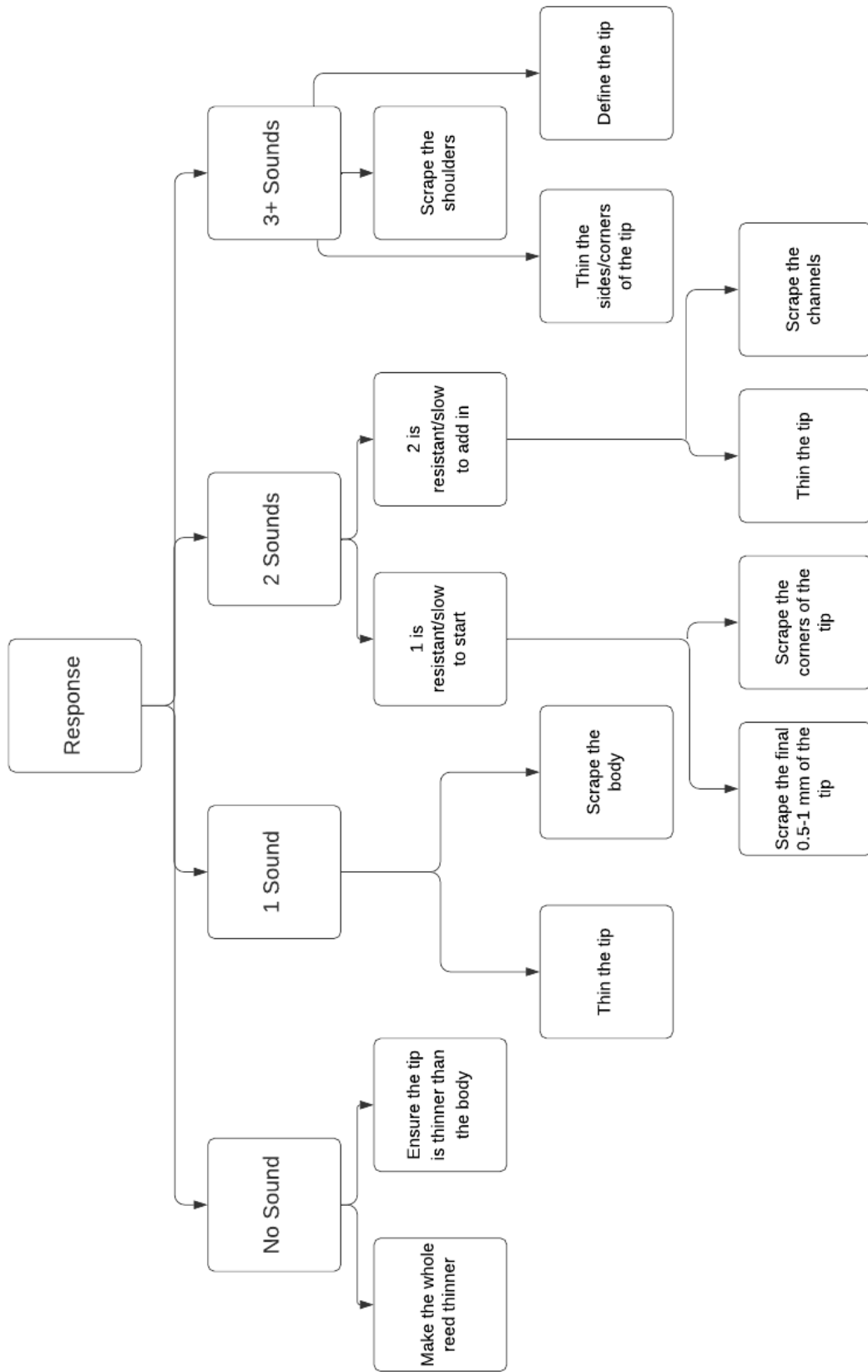
Play in the Oboe

- Octave test
 - Sagging octaves
 - Scrape the shoulders
 - Thin the sides/corners of the tip
 - Deepen the center of the channels (exaggerates spine)
 - Octaves hold
 - Good! Move on the 3) TONE

3) TONE

Play in the oboe

- Sounds stuffy
 - Search for positive scraping opportunities
- Sounds zippy
 - Search for negative scraping opportunities



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