



Saxophone Reed Adjustment

David Dees
Texas Tech University

Tools you will need:

1. Reed knife (sharpening stone optional)
 2. Reed clipper
 3. Fine grade sandpaper
- The thickness and density of the back portion of the vamp (squares) will affect low register response.
 - The thickness and density of the middle portion of the vamp (triangle, avoiding the heart) will affect middle register response.
 - The thickness and density of the reed tip (circles) will affect upper register response.
 - The effect of removing wood increases as you move towards the tip. Remove more wood near the back and less near the tip.
 - On very stiff reeds, you may need to remove wood from the heart as well.
 - In the case of reeds that are very soft, or french cut (concert or C*) that you intend to use in a jazz context, experiment with trimming the tip with a reed trimmer. Notice that by shortening the reed, you will alter the resting position of the bark, which can affect response.