



CHRIS
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STRO
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X-TREME

CARBON FIBRE TONGUE BAGPIPE DRONE REEDS

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Thank you for choosing to purchase your X-TREME drone reeds. I believe that these drone reeds will provide you with many hours of trouble free playing, stability, consistency and a sonorous, full sounding bagpipe which is easy to tune and maintain. X-TREME drone reeds are the result of my desire to produce something that will compliment a well set up chanter. The Premium version of the reeds has the added benefit of being moisture resistant. Thanks to the hydrophobic nature of the material from which the Premium drone reeds are manufactured, it is possible to play your pipes for a longer period of time without the usual consequences of moisture. If your Premium drone reeds do happen to get moisture on them, it takes minutes to dry them off and they will be ready to play again.

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INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

(Applicable to both Standard and Premium drone reeds)

For best results from your X-TREME drone reeds please make sure that your instrument is correctly hemped and that all drone bores are straight and free of dirt or obstructions. These drone reeds have been designed to essentially be 'plug-and-play'. Each set are tested and set up to suit a medium strength bagpipe. X-TREME drone reeds have been tested extensively in a wide variety of bagpipes, however due to varying bore sizes between different makes of bagpipes and individual chanter reed strengths you may need to make slight adjustments to achieve the best results. Please read through the following instructions before making any adjustments.

FITTING THE REEDS

Ensure that each drone reed is fitted securely into the reed seat of your drone. To achieve a secure fit in the reed seat you may need to either add or remove hemp from the seat end of the drone reed.

When inserting the drone reed into the seat take care to avoid bending the body or moving/damaging the tongue. To correctly insert the drone reed into the seat, take the body at the tongue retainer between your thumb and first two fingers and push gently but firmly into the reed seat of the drone. Do not use excessive force with the palm of your hand to force the drone reed into the reed seat.

After correct fitting of the drone reeds, the strength and pitch can be altered to suit your own preference and particular make of bagpipe.

ADJUSTING THE STRENGTH

Test the strength by blowing through the drone reed in the drone either by mouth or in the bagpipe. I would recommend testing in the bagpipe unless you are confident that you know what strength is required for the drone reed to work with your chanter reed or if you have the drone reeds you are replacing to make a comparison with. Do not blow your X-TREME drone reeds in your mouth unless fitted in a drone as they are likely to stop with only a little pressure.

If you feel that the drone reed is taking too little air causing it to stop, then place your thumb on the tongue to hold it down and carefully move the bridle towards the seat end of the drone reed. This will allow the tongue to adopt a more open position and increase the amount of air passing under it. This action will also increase the length of the tongue which will result in a lowering of the pitch too. This can be rectified with the tuning screw which is covered later in these instructions.

If you feel that the drone reed is taking too much air, then place your thumb on the tongue to hold it down and carefully move the bridle towards the tuning screw end of the drone reed. This will allow the tongue to adopt a more closed position and decrease the amount of air passing under it. This action will also decrease the length of the tongue which will result in a sharpening of pitch too. This can be rectified with the tuning screw which is covered later in these instructions.

Note: A small adjustment of the bridle will result in a significant change to the air flow through the drone reed, quite often just flicking the bridle with your finger or thumb nail can be enough. Always make very small adjustments and re-test before any further changes are made.

ADJUSTING THE PITCH

Once you are satisfied with the strength and balance of the drone reed with regard to your other drones and chanter, the pitch can be altered. I recommend that the correct height for your tenor drones to tune is between 3 and 5 millimetres above the hemp line on the tuning slide. Your bass drone should tune with the top section showing between 3 and 5 millimetres above the hemp line on the top tuning slide and the mid section tuning on the bottom half of the tuning pin on the bottom section.

To sharpen the pitch of the drone reed (cause the drone top to tune higher on the tuning pin), turn the tuning screw in a clockwise direction which will shorten the air column and sharpen the pitch of the drone reed.

To flatten the pitch of the drone reed (cause the drone top to tune lower on the tuning pin), turn the tuning screw in an anticlockwise direction which will lengthen the air column and flatten the pitch of the drone reed.

Note: If you find that the tuning screw is fully screwed into the reed body and the correct height for your drones to tune on the tuning slide has not been achieved, then fully unscrew the tuning screw and fill the hollow middle in with Blu Tack/putty or a similar material which will enable you to have the drone tops tune higher on the tuning slides.

MOISTURE OF THE REEDS

(Only applicable to the Premium version of the reeds)

X-TREME drone reeds are manufactured from a hydrophobic material which is moisture resistant and means that the drone reeds repel moisture but they are not altogether moisture proof. Thanks to the properties of the material used in the manufacture of the reeds it means that the turnaround time, should the reeds suffer from moisture, is very quick indeed.

To dry your X-TREME drone reeds off all you have to do is take the drones out of the stocks and leave the reeds to dry naturally in the ambient air. The moisture will evaporate from the surface of the reed within a couple of minutes and if a quicker turnaround time is required then apply a gentle heat source (i.e. a hair or hand dryer on low heat) to speed up the drying time to seconds.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Once you have followed the above instructions for all 3 X-TREME drone reeds your bagpipe should now be ready to play. I believe that the design characteristics and material composition of the X-TREME drone reeds make them the closest sounding synthetic reeds on the market to the full harmonic sound of natural cane reeds without the added maintenance required.

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In the unlikely event that you encounter any problems, please email support@chrisarmstrong.co

All order enquiries at the following address
orders@chrisarmstrong.co