



## *Reed Preparation and Maintenance*

### **Materials:**

1. **Reeds**
2. **Reed Case**
3. **Vandoren Glass Reed Resurfacer or Very Fine Sandpaper and Flat Glass**
4. **Reed Knife, Resurfacer Reed Stick or Reed Rush**

### **Procedure:**

1. Wet a reed front and back with saliva (dipping in a glass of water would be fine, if you prefer), and place in a reed case for a few seconds.
2. Place the reed on glass and rub with thumb from bottom of vamp to top, to close pores.
3. Try the reed to see if it needs balancing by blowing on one side and then the other. If one side is harder, use a knife, reed stick or rush to remove some cane.
4. Once the reed is balanced, mark (to identify for the future) and date it (I put the date on the heel), rub the vamp of the reed, lightly, with the reed stick, from bottom to top, to close the pores again, (rush, or even a finger could be used instead), until it is smooth.
5. Take the back of the reed and wet it once again (saliva preferred), and let it sit, facing up for a few minutes.
6. Before the reed dries completely, rub the reed on the frosted side of the resurfacer (or sandpaper), in a circular motion until smooth to close the pores. Make sure the tip extends over the edge of the glass, to ensure not softening the tip. **Do this each time you play the reed to insure the reed will not warp.**

### **After:**

1. Keep the reed in a reed holder, and do the same with several reeds, and rotate the reeds every time you play. You may have to adjust a reed slightly each time you play; not a big problem. I have up to a dozen reeds ready to play for each horn I play.
2. Vandoren has many styles of reeds from which to choose, if you pick the correct style and strength reed, you can get almost every reed in the box to work.