



Materials Needed: Reed Adjustment

If you're a beginning reed maker/adjuster and don't have any tools, it's easiest to start off with a complete reed making kit from certain sellers. All double reed specialist stores have a few versions, but the one I would recommend most for quality and price is Nexus Woodwinds. Buying all of these tools individually, or trying to find another kit that is similar from another seller will cost around \$300+. This one is a steal! It has a bit more in it than you actually need for adjustment alone, but it's a great deal.

[Nexus Woodwinds "Ultimate" Reed Making Kit: \\$175](#) (all you need to buy with this kit to make my list complete is a hand knife, precision blades, twine, glue, sandpaper and metal files.)



If you're learning from me directly, I can put together a "bare minimum" tool kit for you for around \$100 total. Just ask if you want that!

As you're buying tools, here are a few specialty double reed suppliers who will provide what I'm recommending in this handout.

Double Reed Tool sellers

[Bocal Majority \(Texas\)](#)

[Chemical City Reeds \(Louisiana\)](#)

[Midwest Musical Imports \(Minnesota\)](#)

[Miller Marketing \(Pennsylvania\)](#)

[Forrest's Music \(California\)](#)

[Nexus Woodwinds \(New York\)](#)

[Edmund Nielsen Woodwinds \(Arkansas\)](#)

[Otter Creek Double Reeds \(Maryland\)](#)

[Hodge Products \(Virginia\)](#)

[Crook and Staple \(UK\)](#)

[Rieger Bassoon tools \(Germany\)](#)

What you'll need:

Hand Knife a sharp pocket knife works – usually around \$30-70 for specialty knives



Plaque These come in different colors. Any color works. This one is important so you don't chip or crack the reed when scraping.

[Rieger Plaques at MMI are \\$4](#) each



Mandrel do NOT buy a forming mandrel.

[Solution mandrel at MMI is \\$20](#)



Pliers simple 5" flathead pliers work, otherwise these Rieger forming pliers (pictured, \$40) are specialized for reed making.

[Solution Pliers at MMI are \\$27](#)



(Optional) Reamer there are two kinds: spiral and diamond. Get a spiral reamer first! Reamers are helpful to have in your kit, but not completely necessary for adjusting.

[Rieger Bassoon Reamer at MMI is \\$97](#)



Tip Cutters

[Plier style: \\$30 at Nexus WW](#)

[Rotating machine: \\$145 for Solution by Patrizzi](#)



Sandpaper (220 – 500 grit) : you can get a mixed pack of sandpaper for about \$5 at a hardware store. Cut them into rectangles about 3x2 inches. I use 4 different kinds of sandpaper, but you can get away with one or two.

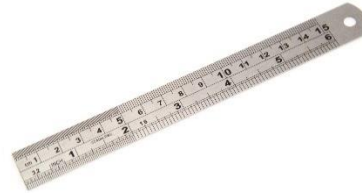


Small Metal files (assorted; pattern or diamond type)

You can find packs of 10-12 of these at a small hardware store for \$5.



Metal Ruler (w/ mm AND in) – avg. \$3
[\(amazon pack of 12: \\$12\)](#)



And as always: **A PENCIL!**
[Blackwing Bassoon Pencils](#)



Buying Reeds

A little explanation: there are MANY different types of reeds to buy, and every reed maker, even if they use the same cane and the same shape, has a different process and level of detail, making every reed style feel different. For reference, I use Rigotti cane and a Rieger 1a shape. Try buying reeds from a different seller who uses the same shape, and you might be surprised! **Reeds to avoid: anything bought from a store that is NOT a double reed specialist.** As great for general music supplies as they are, Schmitt, Groth, Eckroth, and Woodwind Brasswind are not going to have great reeds in stock—they just have no need for them, since they don't deal with bassoons often enough, and they want to pay bare minimum, which doesn't attract great handmade reed makers. The stores listed above for tools will also have reeds available, so please go to them instead!

Here are some recommendations if you don't know where to look. The best way to find out what you like best is to try a bunch of reeds—you do NOT have to feel obligated to buy from me as long as you sound great and your reeds are good quality!

Bassoon Reeds:

[ACDC Reeds](#) by Ariel Detwiler

[Billy's Bassoon Reeds](#) by Billy Leenheer

[Delano Reeds](#) (through Midwest Musical Imports)

[Midwest Musical Imports](#) selection

[Chemical City Reeds](#) selection

[Laughing Crow Bassoon Reeds](#) by Angela Moretti

[Raven Reeds](#) by Mariah Stadel

[The Joyous Bassoon](#) by Haley Houk

[Jiffy Reeds](#) by Jessica Findley-Yang

[Blue Moon Bassoon](#) by Amanda Pierce

Contrabassoon Reeds:

[ACDC Reeds](#) by Ariel Detwiler (limited stock)

[Weasel Reeds](#) by Trent Jacobs

[GoBassoon Reeds](#) by Leigh Munoz

[Bocal Majority Reed Selection](#) by Jennifer Auerbach & Co

Historical Bassoon Reeds:

[Bassoons.ch](#) - Baroque, Classical, and Modern reeds from Switzerland (Andrew Burn)