

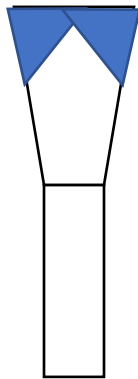


## Blank Scraping: The First and Second scrapes

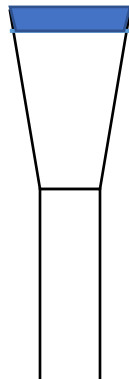
### The First Scrape

1. Find blanks! I would recommend searching for blanks from reputable sellers who have a background in reed making. You can find blanks easily on Etsy.com.
2. Cut the tip of the blank to about 28.5mm from the first wire.
3. Soak blank, immersed in water from tip to base, for at least 10-20 minutes.
4. Fit the blank on a mandrel, with a plaque in the tip. If the tip isn't open enough to fit a plaque, open the first wire a bit with pliers.
5. Using a metal file, scrape the following areas of the reed, using as many vertical motions as possible, moving WITH the grain of the cane.

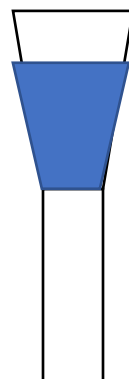
Corners



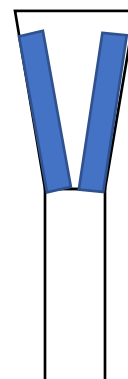
Tip



Even Back



Vertical Rail Taper to Tip



6. Check for consistency by feeling both sides of your reed with your forefinger and thumb, and by looking at the reed at different angles – checking the thickness of the tip, the evenness of the rails, and the general taper of the reed. If one side feels thicker than the other, or if anything looks uneven, fix those issues now.
7. Crow the reed!

\*\*The goal after the first scrape is to have a good basic crow.

Too much high pitch = scrape more in the back half.

Too much low pitch = even out middle and make tip thinner

Uneven crow = check taper of rails

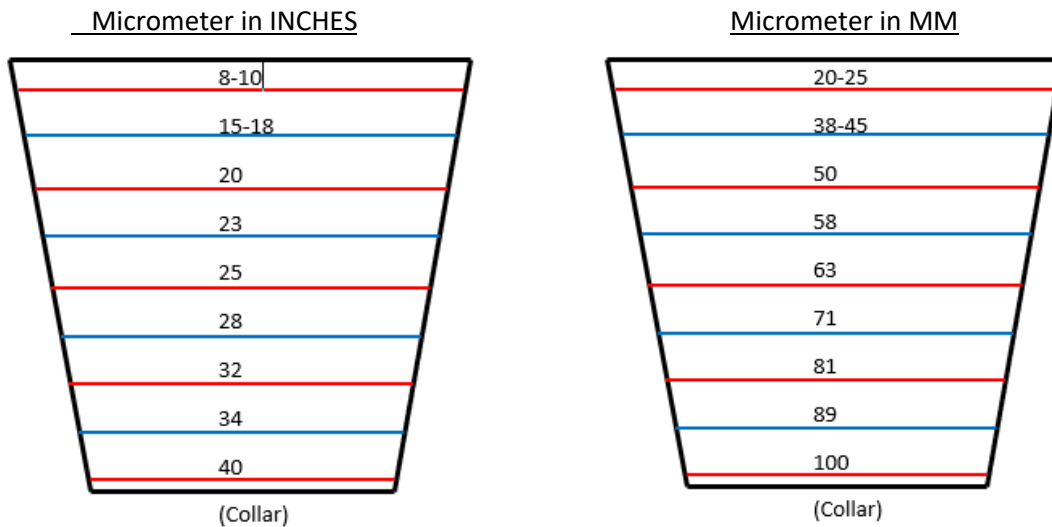
## The Second Scrape

\*\*If you have a micrometer, use it here to get consistent tapers. If you don't have a micrometer, you'll be testing by feel and crow sound. Both ways are completely legitimate.

1. Place the reed on your mandrel and insert plaque.
2. Using your knife, continue to define the reed the same way as during the first scrape using the patterns below, but focus more on getting an even taper vertically AND horizontally. Try not to take too much off the reed in this step—you can always take more off later.

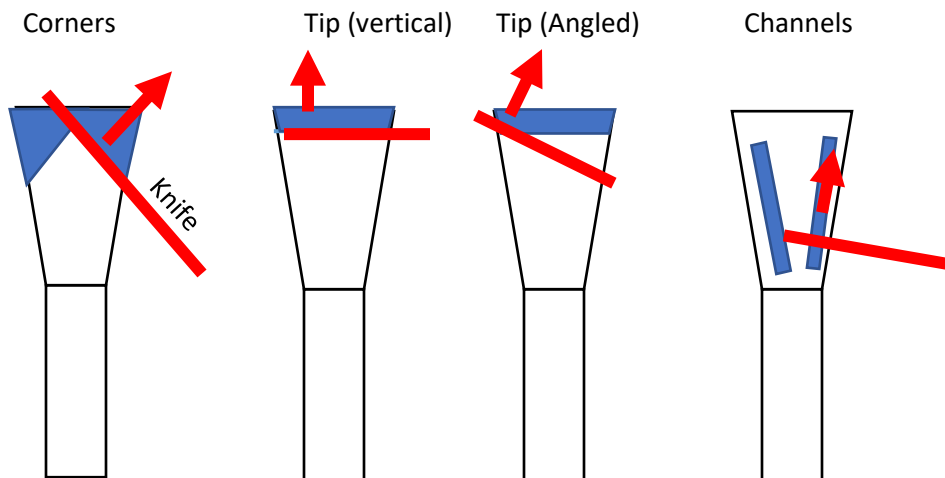
*With Micrometer:* measure to these numbers by following the scrape patterns below.

*Without Micrometer:* Follow the scrape patterns below, in order. Try to feel an even taper from Vertically AND horizontally.



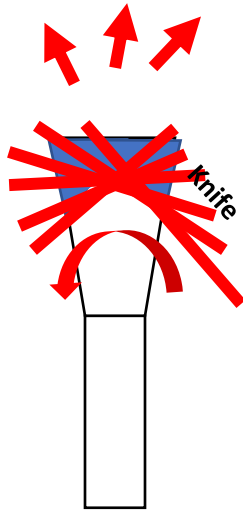
## Second Scrape Patterns

### Cane Removal Scrapes



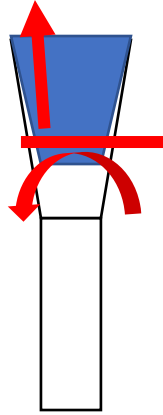
## Blending Scrapes

Corners (thumbnail)

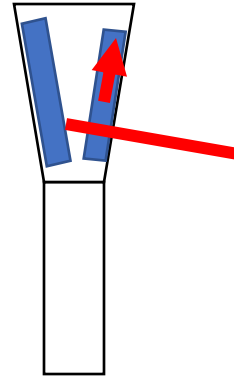


Body

(rotate knife horizontally across reed)



Channels/rail taper check



\*\*At the end of the second scrape, I won't worry too much about the way the crow sounds, unless it's uneven. If it's not ideal, but it's vibrating well with both highs and lows to a point, wait until the third scrape to really start making further scraping decisions.

At the end of the second scrape, this is what the reed shading should look like under a spotlight:

