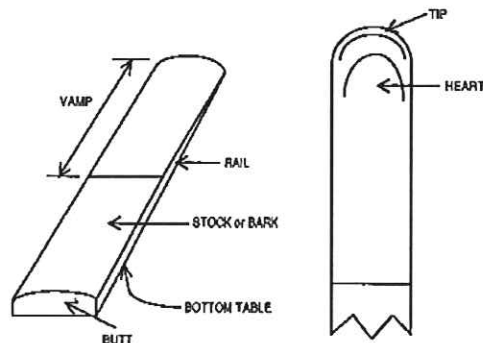


# All You Need to Know about Reeds

## Parts of the Reed:

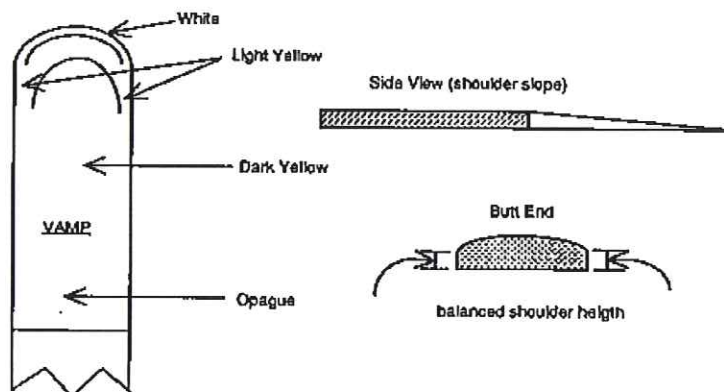


## Reed Rules:

Check for Chipped edges and splits  
Look for a uniform yellow color  
Balanced shoulder height

Heart of the reed is not too high or low  
Bottom table free of any warpage  
Shoulder slopes evenly towards tip

Diagram 1  
Visual Characteristics of Single Reeds



## Keeping Reeds:

Keep at least 4 working reeds  
Any chipped, split, discolored, warped reeds should be taken out of rotation  
"Break in" new reeds by playing only 10 minutes a day for a couple days  
Use a case that keeps reeds flat  
Rotate reeds by playing on a different reed every day

## Common Reed Problems

Ligature is too tight...the reed **MUST** vibrate  
Ligature not placed right under the cut of the reed (where the "bark" begins)  
Reed is too wet and waterlogged...reed will not vibrate and will stick to mouthpiece  
Heart of the reed is too high  
Bottom table of the reed is warped and not flat

# Adjusting Reeds

Have you ever struggled playing on a new reed? Maybe your low register sound different, or your high notes won't come out. Not all reeds are made perfect. Sometimes, the heart of the reed is too high. The sides may have different amounts of thickness which can cause uneven vibrations. These problems might seem small, but they effect how you sound and play greatly!

## Important Facts:

Start sanding a reed AFTER it has been "broken in"

ALWAYS use 400 grit sandpaper

NEVER sand close to the tip of the reed

## First Steps:

Flatten the bottom table of the reed by vigorously rubbing it on a sheet of paper

Play on reed several times, over a couple days, and observe sound in high/ middle/ low register

(Play open G, low G, and high G)

Lightly sand bottom half of reed- starting at the base, until smooth

Lightly sand the ridges until smooth

Sand the areas that need to be sanded

## Follow the Charts for Sanding Instructions:

