

**Amended reeds for Flemish pipe, further to Comm. 2046**

I was never satisfied with the Scots' small pipe reed that I co-opted for the chanter and I was keen to reduce the demand for air to something more manageable.

I adapted a drone reed design from Northumbrian small pipes to reduce the aperture beneath the tongue to a smaller, circular hole. Secondly, I adapted Jon Swayne's chanter reed instructions published by the Bagpipe Society to suit this chanter.

I purchased sheet polystyrene from a local model shop, but both designs should work perfectly well in cane.

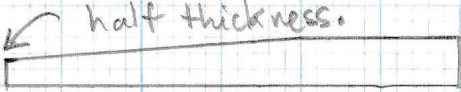

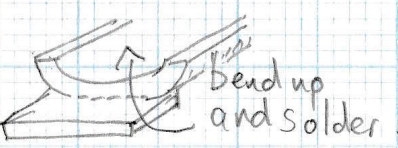
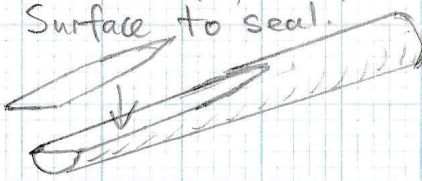
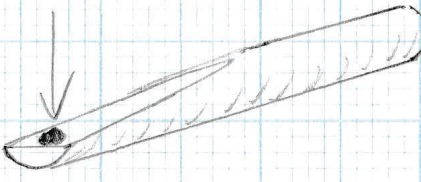
Clear polystyrene is stiffer, presumably with less plasticiser, and won't work for the drone reed tongues because it is reluctant to take a 'set'. However, it is good for the chanter reed as it gives a brighter sound.

White polystyrene sheet is softer and works for both reeds. When 'rolled' over a steel rod, it takes up a smoother curve than the stiffer clear plastic and the latter tends to leave a spine down the middle of the reed.

You might need to experiment with the staple 'mouth' as too wide an oval will make the reed unduly stiff.

See: <http://www.bagpipesociety.org.uk/making-plastic-chanter-reeds/>

## Drone reeds

- ① File tube to half thickness.  

- ② partial saw cut  
  
↑ heat and hammer flat.
- ③  Bend up and solder.
- ④ File and clean up.
- ⑤ Solder brass shim (~0.5 mm) to filed surface to seal.  

- ⑥ Drill hole in shim close to the end. Slightly smaller than internal diameter.  


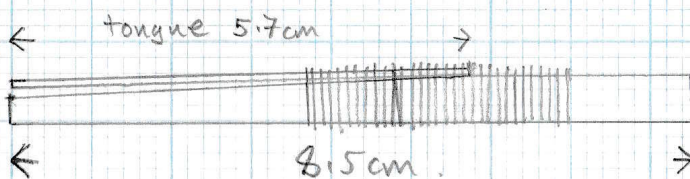
White Polystyrene  
Strip for tongues  
0.50 mm thick.

Bind tongue on with  
waxed thread.

Flick to achieve  
a 'set'.

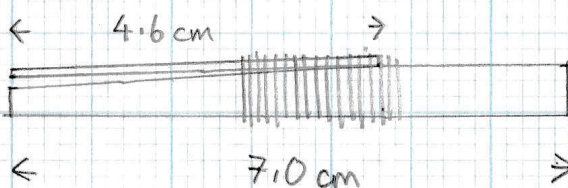
## Bass drone

6 mm O.D. brass.



Could be longer as the tongue  
needed a wax bead as a weight

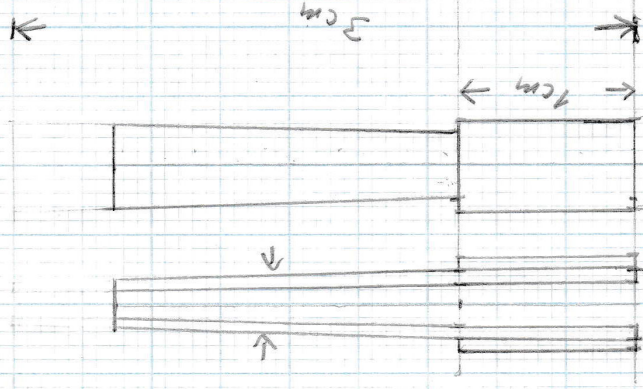
## Tenor drone





Charter reed

Staple - squash along length to an oval.



inner tube

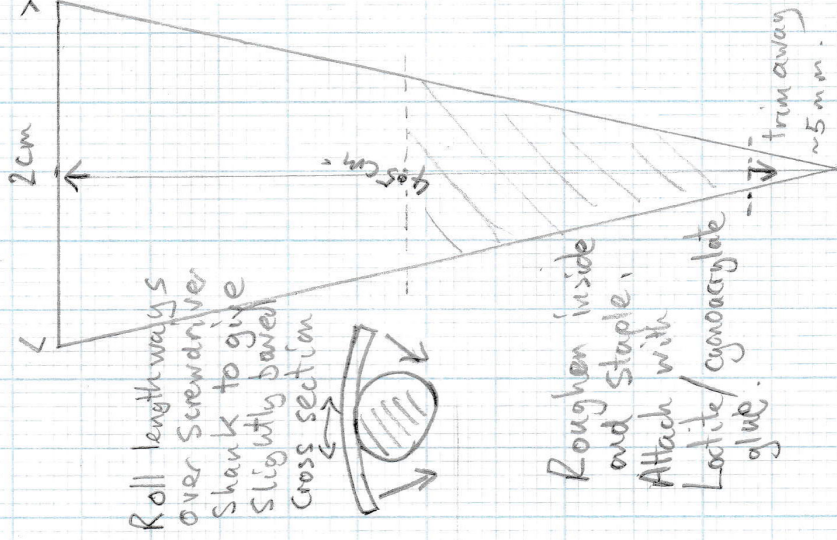
4 mm 0.0 brass

Outer tube 5mm OD brass

Solder together.

## Blades

0.25 mm clear  
poly styrene sheet  
or 0.50 mm white  
poly styrene.



## Ready for finishing

Blade will need scraping and shortening.

