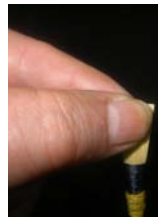


On receiving your reed, it is a good idea to employ the following 4 steps

## **STEP 1** Receipt of your reed



Always Manipulate and squeeze the tips.  
( DO NOT MOISTEN )



Each time you blow your pipes,  
you can repeat this exercise but employing a  
less severe squeeze

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## STEP 2 Check the Balance of your reed

*If using a tuner attempt a reading between 449-452hz*

Ensure the reed is inserted firmly into the reed seat.

Always grasp the reed between thumb and forefinger on the staple



Moth blow continuously low A and high A, if you are using a **Shepherd Chanter** be assured that these notes were tested and balanced before leaving our workshop. if you fail to have success at this stage try follow the basic rules illustrated before employing STEPS 3 and 4



Symptom Sharp	Symptom Flat
Raise in chanter	Lower in chanter



The High "A" will alter more dramatically than the "Low A"

### STEP 3 Check the strength of your reed



Mouthblow continuously on lowA, C, E, highA,, E, F, High G, High A

If you fail to produce the second High A at the same pitch as the first High A,

You could conclude that the reed strength is on the strong side for you, herefore go to STEP 4

Factors affecting difficult tuning

.Hard pipes → leaking gas or leaks → unfriendly drone reeds → unfriendly pipe reeds

**Also beware of the Unfriendly PIPE CHANTER**

Prove by using a variety of reeds

**Difficult** to achieve the octave A-A'

and

Also the A arpeggio notes A,C,E,A

**And in particular the notes F and high G**

**“The message being do not always blame the reed”**

## **STEP 4            To make the reed weaker and Raise the Pitch**

**To raise the pitch and make the reed easier, give a “hefty” squeeze as shown.**



**If the reed is proving difficult to react to the squeezing at this position, Slightly lower the squeeze position closer to the staple.**



*After raising the pitch you will probably have to reset as in step 2 to achieve the “A” octave*

If the reed is being stubborn and not responding to your requirements regarding its strength, it could mean that you have ordered or received a reed which does not match your perceived strength. Please Contact us and ask for George at 01592 720130 or by e-mail at [aftersales@shepherd-bagpipes.com](mailto:aftersales@shepherd-bagpipes.com).