

PLAQUE AND GAUGE SET INSTRUCTIONS

Thank you for your purchase! The REEDGEEK® Plaque and Gauge set can be used to find mouthpiece facing curve lengths on most clarinet and saxophone mouthpieces, as well as transferring those facing measurements onto the reed.

To find your mouthpiece's facing curve length:

Place the REEDGEEK® Plaque straight on the mouthpiece table, with the top line even and parallel with the mouthpiece tip. (See figure 1) For best stability and accuracy of measurement, place the thumb of your dominant hand at approximately where the mouthpiece table and window (open area under the reed) begin and use firm pressure.

Slip the REEDGEEK® Gauge between the plaque and the mouthpiece from the top (figure 2). The position as which the gauge lightly comes to rest is the spot on your mouthpiece where the mouthpiece curve begins (figure 3). The marking lines on the plaque are in one millimeter increments. You may take note of this facing curve length measurement or mark the side of the mouthpiece, lightly, with a pencil or marker.



Figure 1

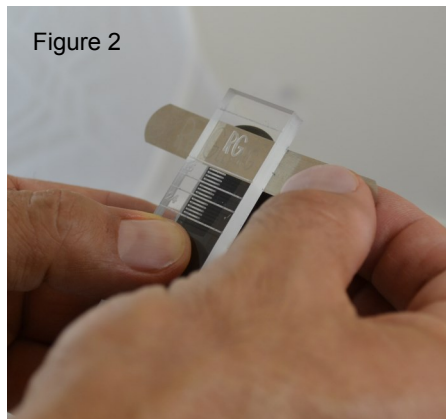


Figure 2

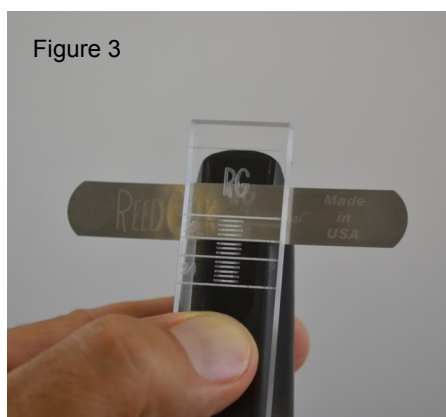


Figure 3

Gauging the flatness of your reed:

Slip the gauge between the reed and the mouthpiece to ensure there is an even/level seal with reed and mouthpiece. The gauge should stop perpendicular to the mouthpiece facing. In optimum position, you will have the gauge sitting at the start of your mouthpiece's facing curve. If the gauge is crooked (figure 4), then the reed is not sealing well on the mouthpiece table and may be warped. Your reed is also leaking at the beginning of the facing curve, hence, is losing playing and vibrational efficiency.

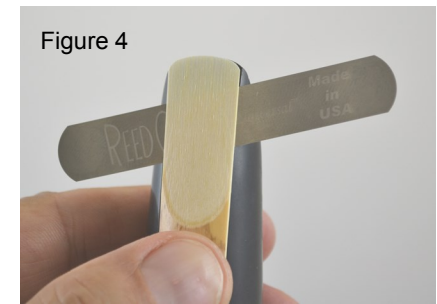


Figure 4

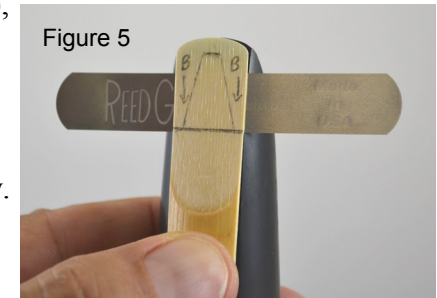


Figure 5

To remedy, use your REEDGEEK® Tool to flatten the reed, as needed. Figure 5 depicts a flat reed that seals properly at the mouthpiece facing. The line depicts the start of the facing curve. This line is the spot where your reed needs to seal on the mouthpiece table and side rails.

Balancing of the reed is initially done on left and right hand sides of the spine (the trapezoidal area shown on the reed), from letters "B" to facing line. Think of each side of the reed as an airplane wing, each wing needs to be identical for consistent air-flow and lift. When the reed is in balance with itself and the mouthpiece facing curve, sound resonates better and your playing becomes very natural.

The REEDGEEK® Plaque may be used as a traditional plaque to support a reed while you are making adjustments. Use the top side, and in an upside-down position, so that the curved end is where the tip of the reed lies. Avoid nicking, marking or working a reed on the underside / flat side, which is the side the lies flat against the mouthpiece table when measuring mouthpiece facing curve. This must remain completely flat and smooth in order to maintain accurate facing measurements with gauge.

