

Trouble Shooting the Crow

ISSUE	PROBLEM	POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS
Harsh/bright	Not vibrating enough	Scrape sides of tip
	Too much definition (particularly between tip & heart)	Scrape "go" spot
	Tip too thick	
	Sharp	

Only one "C" in crow (no low octave)	Reed not vibrating throughout all areas, back is too thick	Scrape the back
	Ridge between heart and back is too pronounced	Reed may be too closed. Soak in very warm water and then squeeze it open. (This will probably be a temporary fix)
	Slipped too much	Smooth out the ridge between the heart and back

Noisy crow (many notes and octaves)	Tip too thin for the rest of the reed/reed not balanced	This reed may not recover :-)
	Not enough definition between parts	Define corners of the tip and clip
	Reed too thin overall	

Crow is flat and unstable	Reed may be over 70mm	Define the sides of the tip
	Lacks definition between tip and heart	Wet reed and pinch it closed
	Heart too thin	
	Football opening	

GENERAL GUIDING PRINCIPALS

Less vibration = sharp

More vibration = flat

Definition = less vibration, but more control & stability

Smoothness = more vibration, but improves response & flexibility

Keep "balance" in mind

Learn to take itsy bitsy clips off the tip (thin first)

Make the reed over several days. Let the reed dry out between stages

Think "symmetry" between left & right/front & back

Crowing intervals other than octave "C's"

Too much definition between heart and tip. The ridge may be preventing vibration

Back may be too thick

Thin tip (especially sides of tip)

Smooth out the ridges

Scrape the back