



ROGER MILLER

- ROM Double Reeds-

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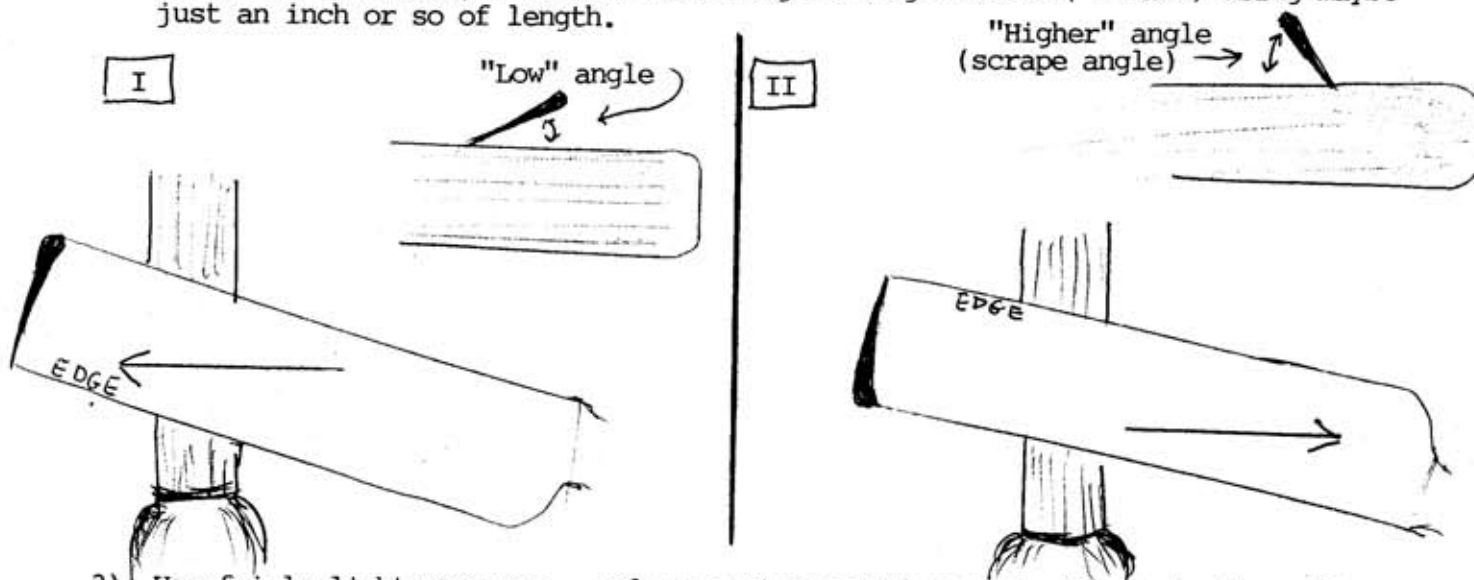
- Cane, Reeds, and Supplies for the Oboist -

AH ROD(burnishing steel)

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This is designed to polish, turn and align the refined burr on a knife edge. The edge must already have a highly refined edge before using this tool. The suggested final procedure before using this is one or more of the following(or similar)items: hard Arkansas stone, ceramic, leather hone.

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- 1) Hold handle in one hand, place tip of rod on a table(or your knee).
OR Place rod end in the cradle & use both hands(one on knife handle, the other on the knife tip) to keep stroke variables as even as possible.
NB...THIS IS THE METHOD I FIND TO BE THE MOST EFFECTIVE.
 - 2) Usually, a few light strokes in each direction will suffice. The last strokes are always with knife blade positioned(angle-wise & direction-wise) as in scraping a reed. Also, try very low angles, & on successive motions, gradually increase the angle heights. Unlike chefs, who usually use the entire length of the steel, I find it best to go straight across(& back) using maybe just an inch or so of length.



- 3) Use fairly light pressure...only experience will provide the desired results. Just tweak some of the variables: pressure(not too much!), angle of the blade, number of strokes per direction, etc.
- 4) If you are working with a thin blade, be careful...several times I have chipped thin blades from excessive pressure, wich is not appropriate with this tool.
- 5) You may also find it useful to utilize the leather sheath for polishing the blade...just avoid digging into the leather. Better yet, acquire a bench hone or strop.
- 6) Occasionally, you will have to do some grinding of the knife edge, but judicious use of this rod should significantly extend the life of your knives, and provide a superior edge.
- 7) CLEANING ROD. Occasionally, apply a few drops of lighter fluid, alcohol, or similar fluid to a white tissue or cloth & wipe rod. You may see a slight amount of grayness on the tissue or cloth. That's microscopic bits of metal that would reduce the effectiveness of the rod. KEEP DRY...THIS CAN RUST!

Directions for right-handed users. Reverse for left hand.