

English horn

BREANA GILCHER

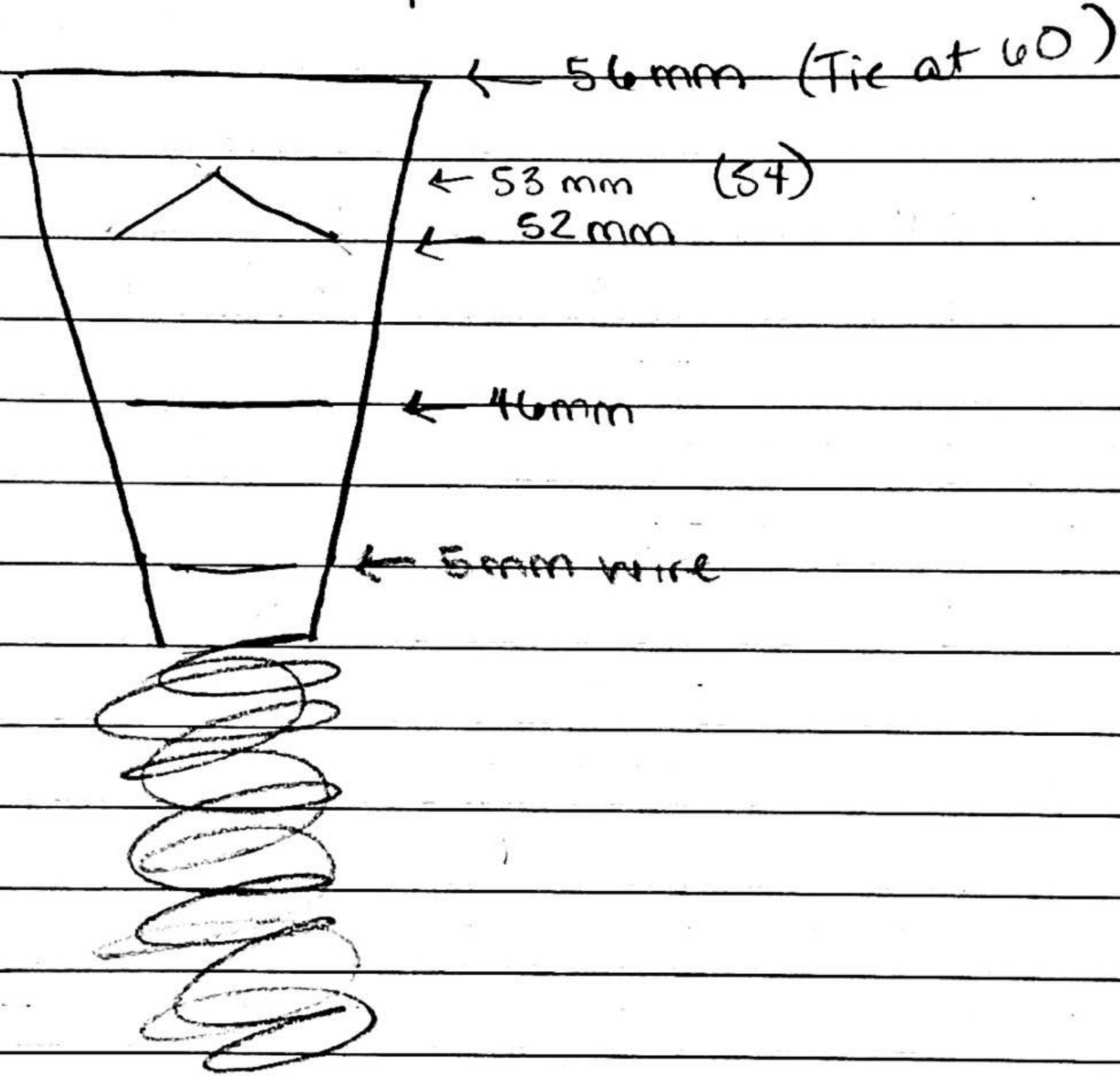
Staple length = 27mm

Tie at 58mm

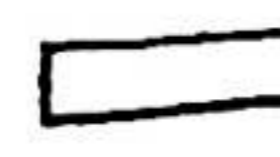
Finish at 56mm

Wire: wrap 5mm up from thread

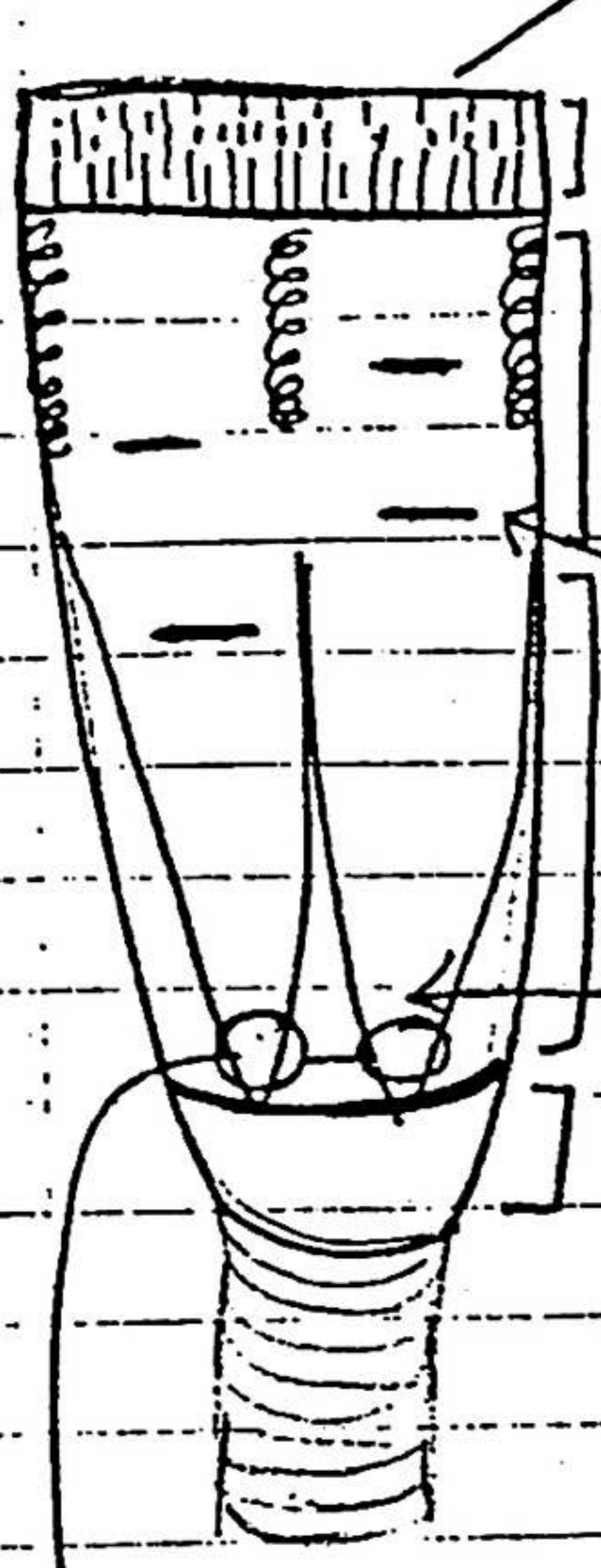
length from thread to tip = 31mm



STACY  
E. Horn REED

Tip is  + graduates thick to thin. Is same all the way across.  
End is super thin (1/2 mm)

Total 55-57 mm long

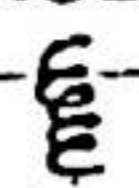


3-4 mm tip

7-8 mm

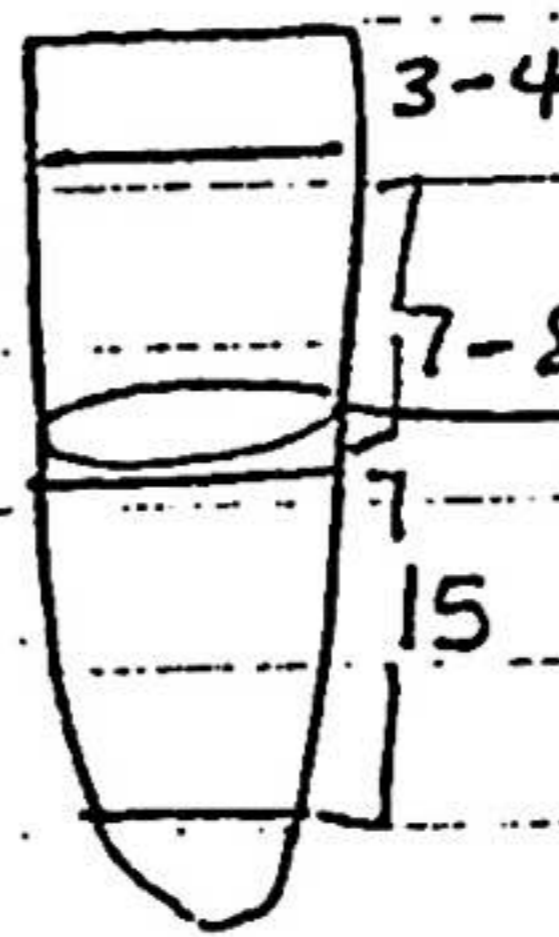
15 mm

3-4 mm

if reed is too open when almost finished, scrape 

make vibration marks uneven

if #, scrape



will darken  
" give you more control  
" release vibrations

more mellow, scrape

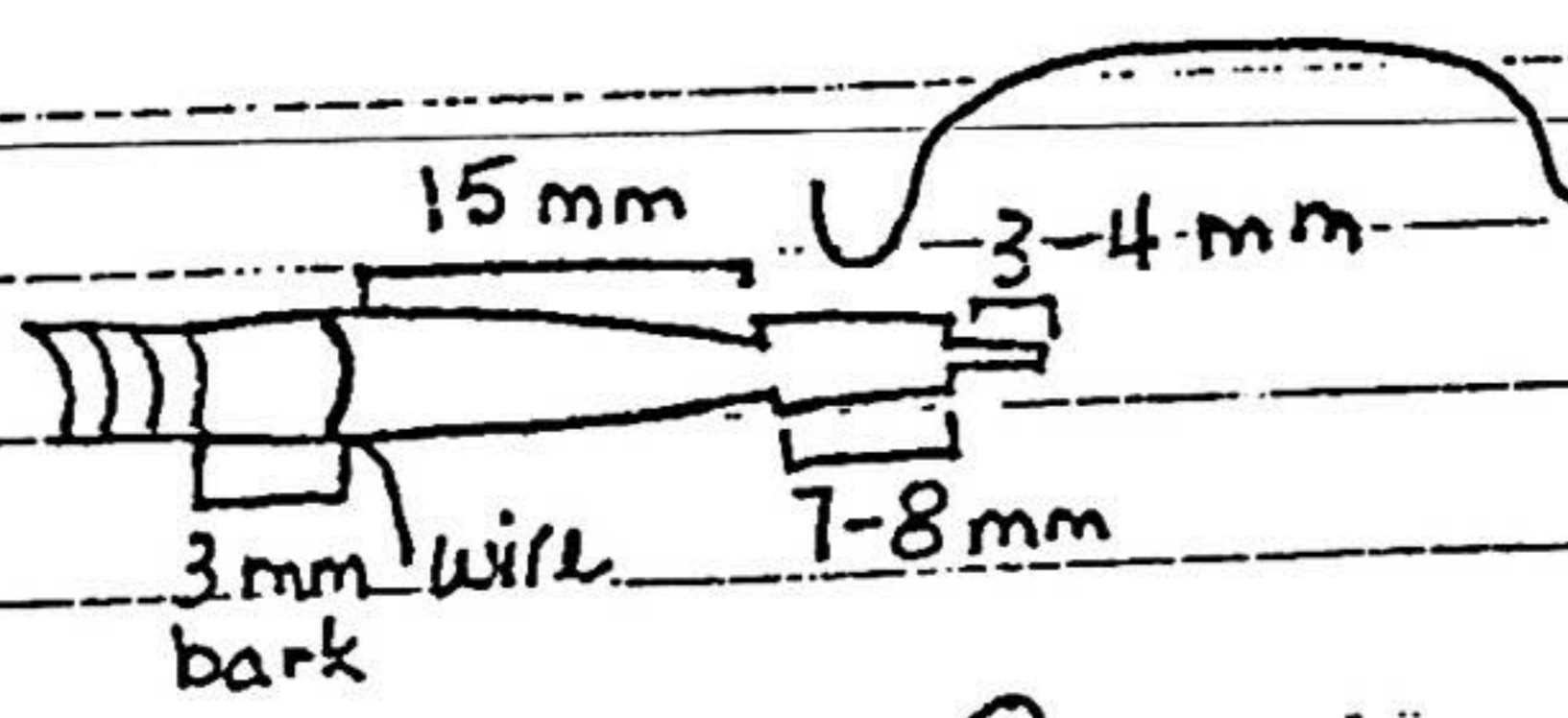
Overlap blades.

1st scrape is entire W

Tip too long or too thin = buzz

TIE REED AT 60 MM

Take powdery substance off end of tip when reed dries (to darken tone)  
Support points are sides + spine - leave them on



lips touch reed at point of most resistance (heart)

If reed stiffens, scrape ① tip of tip ② back of tip ③ heart ④ back.

Unstable pitch up high - too much out of back  
Vibrations must go through heart to back for high register to sound good  
Make tip longer but not thinner to be easy w/ good sound!

# THOUGHTS ON ENGLISH HORN REEDS PLUS SOME EXPERT RESOURCES

By Trevor Johnson

What you know about oboe reed making will help your English horn reed making. True, there are a few differences, but don't try to re-invent the wheel...all the basic concepts transfer. An English horn reed is basically a proportionally-larger oboe reed.

## WHAT'S THE SAME:

- 1) Look for the same qualities in selecting cane
- 2) Make sure sides seal and blades are properly overlapped.
- 3) "Finishing" scrapes are in the same area: top of the shoulders (back corners of the tip), all around the sides of the tip, and corners of tip.
- 4) A reed made over several days will be more stable and will last longer.

## WHAT'S DIFFERENT:

- 1) Generally speaking, there is less difference in thickness between the sections of the reed. It is slightly more uniform than an oboe reed. This means that in proportional terms, the tip region is slightly thicker than an oboe reed and the heart/plateau region is slightly thinner. Don't dig out the back too much either...it is closer to the thickness of the heart/plateau.
- 2) While these regions are closer to each other in thickness, a little more definition between the sections of the reed will help the stability. This means that it doesn't need to be quite so blended where the sections meet. But take this with a grain of salt...vibrations still need to flow through the reed!
- 3) A gouged piece of English horn cane is approximately .10 mm thicker than a gouged piece of oboe cane...meaning .68-.70 in the center. Knowing this, you can proportionately figure finished thicknesses based on recommendations for your oboe reeds. (Ohlsson recommends .48 in the center of a finished oboe reed's heart. Remembering that an EH reed may be comparatively thinner in the heart (remember we're talking in proportion!), perhaps .55 is a good starting place to consider the thickest point of an EH heart.)
- 4) Don't wrap the string all the way down to the bottom of the staple. It's good to leave a bit of space for some airline tubing around the base of the staple to secure it to the bocal.
- 5) Speaking of this, if you do have tubing at the base of the staple, remember that this lengthens the reed and consequently lowers the crow slightly. If a finished EH reed crows close to C-sharp without the tubing (a good goal), then the crow will be closer to C WITH the tubing.
- 6) The length of most EH staples is 27 mm.

## CAROLYN HOVE REED NOTES

### General points:

She does not use wire...believes it changes the vibrations too much. It's often a crutch when people take too much out of the back of their reeds.

More definition between heart and back improves stability.

When the heart to tip is too blended, there is instability.

Keep side rails more intact than on oboe reeds.

She uses the Falstaff tip (from the Adam shaper tip company) and 27 mm bronze tubes from Mark Chudnow, as well as his English horn mandrel.

### Her process:

Blank: scrape bark off at the tip just after wrapping...then let sit overnight.

Next day: soak and thin the tip more, then clip open the hinge. Get rid of bark and make the spine area. Leave 5-6 mm above the string unscraped. Click the overlap into place. Make a pencil mark on the side of the reed at approx. 54 mm (measured all the way from the bottom of the tube). This will be the TOP of the upside down "V" of the heart. Make the tip. Then make straight scrapes along the spine to get the back organized. Now you should have the tip roughed in, the spine, back and rails roughed in, and a good opening. PUT IT AWAY.

Next day: Make some long scrapes to clean things up. Figure out the heart. It should extend 8-9 mm below the top of the "V". Now refine to get the crow to c's. Note that you focus on the crow later than with oboe reeds. PUT IT AWAY.

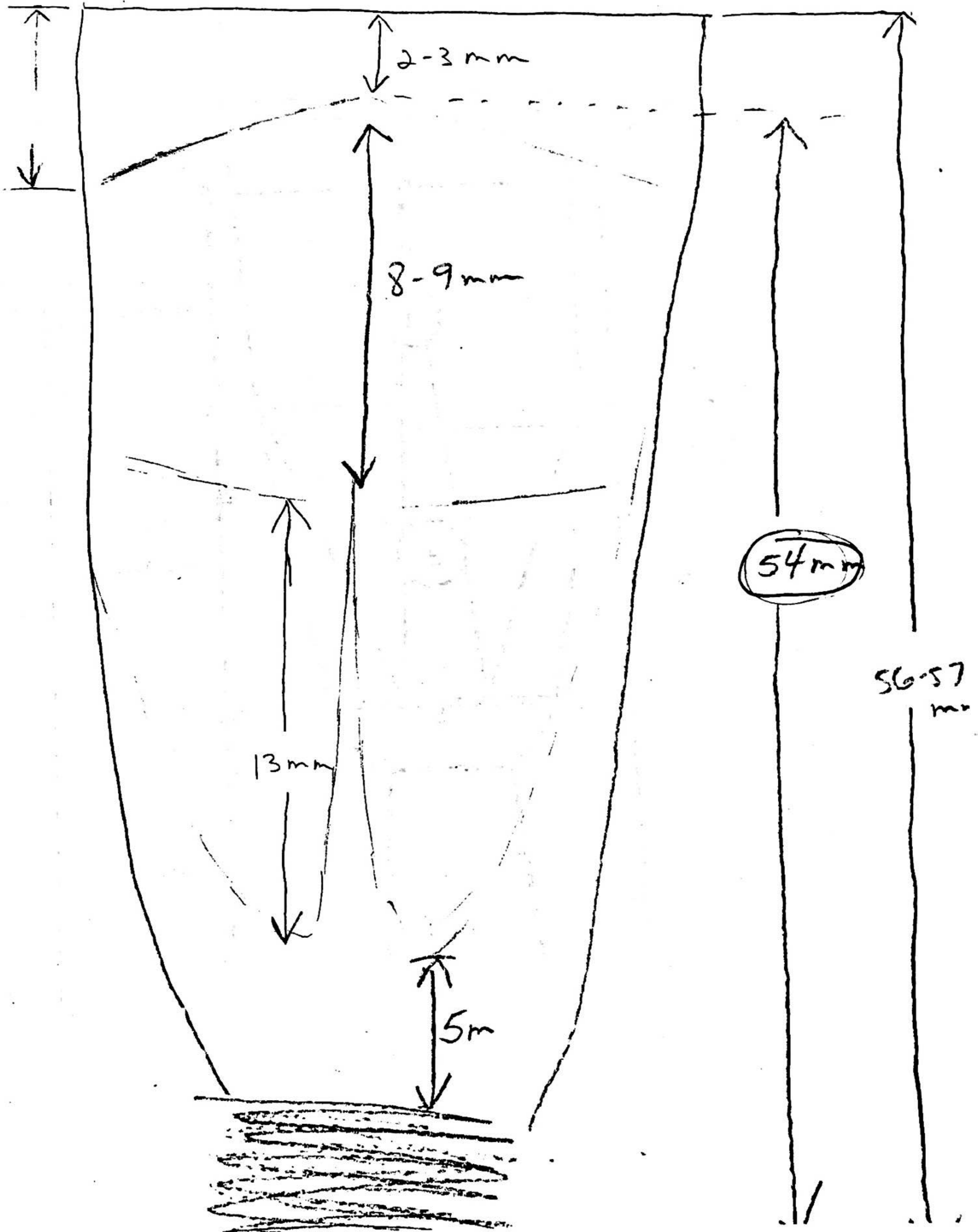
Next day: Finish and refine.

By making it over 4 days, you are less likely to over-scrape, and the reed will be more stable and last longer.

**FOLLOWING IS A DIAGRAM OF A "CAROLYN HOVE" REED MODEL:**

Lilbert #1 - tie at 61mm  
Falstaff - tie at 60mm

Most important  
measurements  
are CIRCLED



.58 - .60 - oboe  
.68 - .70 - EH

Tie at 58-60  
Finish 55-57  
(56)

# Stacy English Horn Reed

