

# Drone Reed Adjustment

***NB – when handling the reed, try to avoid touching the O-rings which hold the plastic tongues in position as moving them will affect the pitch and pressure.***

It is possible to adjust the drone reeds for both playing pressure and pitch. These are related but may be adjusted separately, at least to some extent.

Adjustment is simple in principle but can be rather fiddly and should be attempted in very small steps.

## Pressure

The upper face of the brass body is cut at an angle to create the required gap between blade and body. The O-ring which controls the free length of the tongue is situated on or near the shoulder of this angled section - look at the reed sideways to see this. Moving the O-ring towards the free end of the tongue will lower the pressure and any more than a slight movement will shut the reed off altogether. With care, the pressure can be adjusted to suit. The pitch will be raised and this can be compensated for by lowering the pitch as below.

## Pitch

This is controlled by the vibrating length of the tongue. To lower the pitch, push the tongue from the fixed end under the O-rings in such a way as to lengthen the free end without moving the O-rings. It is particularly important that the O-ring nearest the free end of the tongue is not moved. Use a thumb nail or the edge of a craft knife blade against the fixed end of the tongue and make adjustments in small steps, about 0.5mm.

To raise the pitch, push the tongue back under the O-rings by pushing on the blade, against the body, with your thumb. Do not push the free end of the tongue with a thumb nail or craft knife blade since this risks distorting the tongue. Alternatively, trim the end of the tongue in 0.5mm steps with a sharp craft knife.

Traditional methods of adjustment may also be used if the above do not give the desired result:

1. If a stronger pressure is desired, flick the tongue out slightly to raise the pressure. This will also lower the pitch which may be compensated for as above. This is not reversible but the tongue is easy to replace!
2. The pitch can be lowered using a small weight attached to the free end of the tongue. Tiny pieces of Blu-Tak are useful.

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