

# Recommended Equipment



## Beginner levels

Picking the right reed is an important step for beginners - choose a reed strength that is not too soft to build a good tone, support, and intonation.



## Intermediate levels

Great for advancing players, Rico Royal™ has a classical "filed" cut for increased response.



## Jazz Reeds

La Voz™ reeds are the standard for Jazz - deep, powerful tone, and premium cane.



## Sax Straps

Rico sax straps are comfortable, stylish, and, designed with a curved hook to stay on the saxophone.

RIL0011



Use these strength comparison charts to help you find the right reed for you!

Brand	Strength				
	1.5	2	2.5	3	4
Rico	1.5	2	2.5	3	4
Grand Concert Select			2.5	3	3.5
Vandoren	1	1.5	2	2.5	3
Rico Select Jazz	2.5	2M	2H	3M	3H
Vandoren V16	1.5	2	2.5	3	3.5
Jana	1.5	2	2.5	3	3.5
ZZ	1.5	2	2.5	3	3.5
Frederick L. Hamlin			2.5	3	3.5
Plasticover	1	1.5	2	2.5	3
La Voz			M	MH	H
Rico Royal	1	1.5	2	2.5	3

saxophone

Brand	Strength				
	1.5	2	2.5	3	4
Rico	1.5	2	2.5	3	4
Grand Concert Select Evolution			2	2.5	3
Rue Lepic	1	1.5	2	2.5	3
Vandoren	1	1.5	2	2.5	3
Grand Concert Select Trad. & Thick			2	2.5	3
Vandoren V12	1.5	2	2.5	3	3.5
Mitchell Lurie			M	MH	H
La Voz			M	MH	H
Rico Royal	1	1.5	2	2.5	3
Plasticover	1	1.5	2	2.5	3

clarinet

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# RICO™

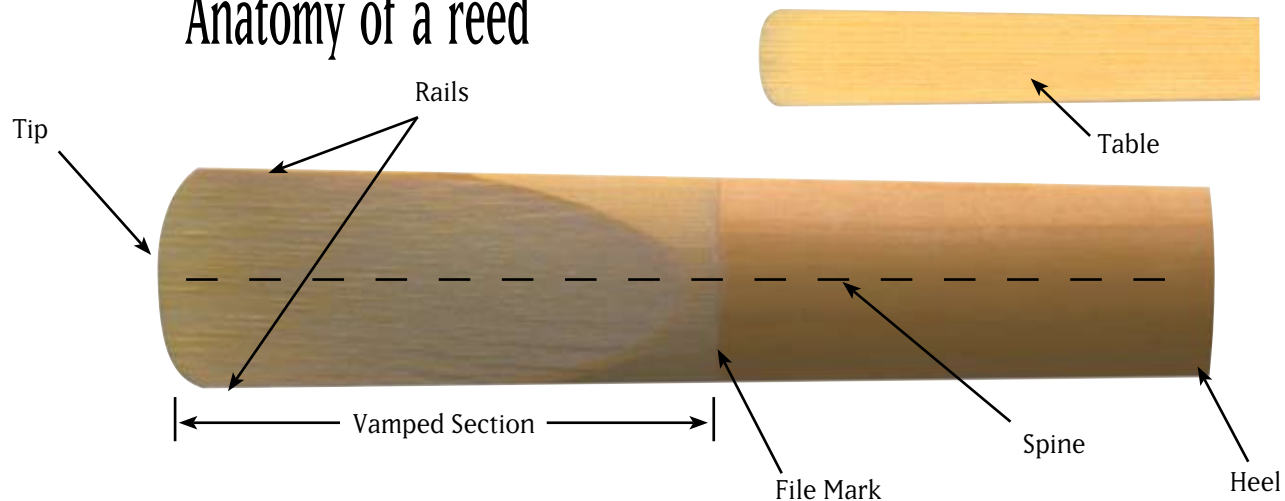
The World's Most Popular Reed

## Maintaining Your Reeds

### Clarinet & Saxophone



# Anatomy of a reed



## The parts of a reed:

**Tip** - Tip of the reed

**Heel** - The back end of the reed

**File Mark** - The straight line cut in the bark at the back of the vamped section

**Spine** - Middle of the reed running from front to back

**Rails** - Sides of the reed on the vamped section

**Table** - The flat underside of the reed

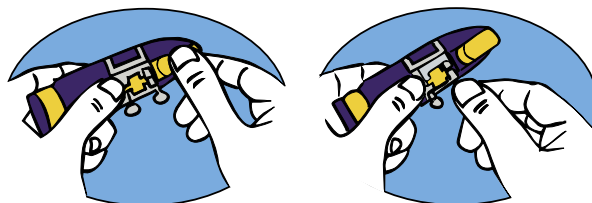
**Vamp** - The cut area of the reed

## Preparing your reeds

1. Always wet your reeds before playing by placing reeds in your mouth for a few minutes.
2. Gently wipe off the excess moisture on the "vamped" or cut area, the bottom or "table", and the heel.
3. Break in your new reeds slowly - 15 minutes a day.

## Installing your reed

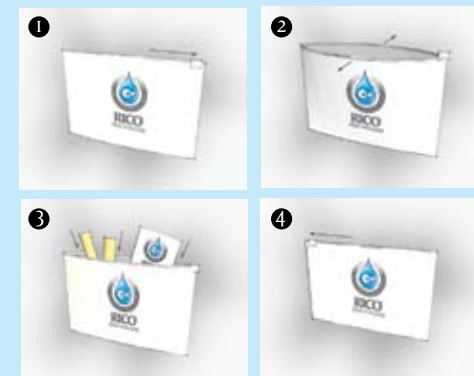
1. Place ligature on mouthpiece - then place wet reed underneath ligature from top.
2. Tighten ligature screws evenly.
3. Be careful not to over-tighten the ligature screws.



# Reed Storage & Maintenance



For students, a simple plastic reed holder, like a Reedgard™, works well. They are easy to use, store the reed flat, and provide good protection.



1. Zip control case open
2. Firmly pull both sides apart to break safety seal
3. Remove Reed Vitalizer from foil pack and place with reeds inside control case (Do not cut or tear control pack)
4. Zip control case closed

That's it! Reed Vitalizer immediately starts regulating humidity inside the control case. No added water needed.

Rico's Reed Vitalizer offers maintenance-free reed storage and encourages good habits with young students. The patented Humidipak technology uses 2-way humidity control to keep your reed tips flat and prevent cracking and warping.

Never store your reed on the mouthpiece inside the case. This may cause the reed to warp and become unresponsive.

