

POINTS OF ADJUSTMENT

Uniform Outer Edges

A further important basic factor is the uniformity of the outer edges of the upper and lower blades as well as that of the left and right sides. On page 34, in the chapter titled 'Scraping,' I have already talked about the actual shape of the sides. The gradual sloping down of all of the outer edges is essential in every reed. This has a great influence on the response and sound quality.

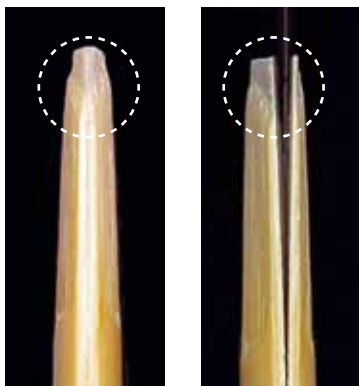
Imagine the outer edge of the upper blade being much thicker than that of the lower one - how could both blades vibrate in unison with each other? The thicker blade would be more sluggish, preventing the thinner one from vibrating freely. As also mentioned on page 34, these outer edges form the 'frame.' This, together with the 'spine,' helps retain tension in the reed. In order to fulfill the function of the frame, care must be taken to remove the cane evenly from the bark towards the tip. If the outer edge or frame were to be too thick, the slope between the middle of the reed and outer side would be reduced. The reed would lose tension, as well as sounding hard and inflexible.

The Smooth Transition to the Tip

Still looking at the outer edges, focus on the transition to the tip. This must be smooth. A sudden change in thickness would have a negative effect on the c", making the pitch too sharp and the tone too bright.

Edges too thick.

Transitions not smooth.



The outer edge gradually merges into the tip.

