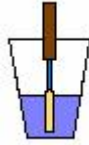


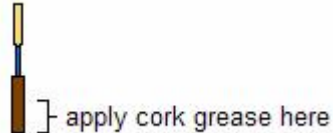
How to Care for Oboe Reeds

<http://www.reedery.com>

1. Always soak the cane in water for one to five minutes before playing.



2. If the cork fits too tightly in your oboe, apply some cork grease. This is important because if a reed is too difficult to remove from your oboe, your hand could suddenly slip and accidentally break the reed. The cane part of the reed is scraped very thin and is fragile.

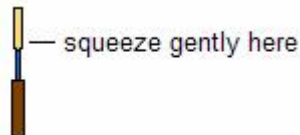


A. If it is still too tight, you can squish the cork tightly between your finger and thumb and roll it to compress the cork.

B. If your reed seems to be stuck or is difficult to remove from your oboe, use a towel, the bottom of your shirt, or other cloth to help you grip the cork part. Hold on to the cork and twist it to loosen it from the oboe.

3. You can adjust the opening of your reed at your own risk. These instructions are **VERY IMPORTANT** to protect the reed:

- Do this only after the reed has soaked well in water for one to five minutes.
- Look down into the reed opening during this process and watch the blades moving apart or together, being careful not to squeeze the reed so hard that it breaks.
- Gently use your finger and thumb down near the thread wrapping to squeeze the blades slightly more open or closed if you wish. Remember to watch the opening!



Squeezing the reed closed can make it sharper or easier to play, and squeezing it open can make it flatter or darker sounding. Be very careful, especially when squeezing the blades open.

4. Store your reeds in a case specially made for oboe reeds. This lets them dry properly, protects them from breakage, and prevents them from getting lost. Shipping tubes or individual plastic boxes are no good for reed storage. For students on a budget, I recommend the plastic reed cases sold at North Texas Oboe Reeds: <http://www.oboreedstore.com/html/cases.html>