



# Basic Adjustment Techniques & Advice

<u>Common Issues</u>	<u>Explanation</u>	<u>Recommended Adjustment</u>
Too Open	Tip opening is too open/tall	Use pliers to squeeze the first wire top-to-bottom. This will close the opening and make the reed more responsive and easier to play on. I encourage playing on a reed thoroughly before doing this, as the embouchure naturally closes down this opening.
Too Closed	Tip opening is too closed	Use pliers to squeeze the sides of the first wire. This will make the tip opening wider and give it more volume and power, and also feel harder/more fatiguing to the embouchure.
Too Hard	Reed can feel overly fatiguing to play on, but not too open	Use fine grit sandpaper and sand the channels of the reed. This softens the structure of the reed which allows it to vibrate.
Too Resistant	Reed can feel resistant, that it won't take all of the air being used. Like blowing through a screen	If you feel it is hard to make the reed sound, try using the same fine grit sandpaper above the thumbnail to thin out the playing tip of the reed.