

Roosebeck Bagpipes Highland



Anatomy of a Bagpipe
Highland Bagpipes
with a Royal Stewart Tartan Cover

Roosebeck Bagpipe Fittings

Thread is used to ensure air-tightness when assembling parts of the bagpipe. Normal maintenance requires adding or replacing thread for a proper fit.

Bag Care

Any Rexine™ bag is synthetic and should never be seasoned.

Leather bags are pre-seasoned. Over time they may require seasoning to be kept soft and airtight. A little air leakage is normal. If leaking is excessive, re-seasoning by removing the drones and plugging the stocks with rubber stoppers. Follow the instructions provided with the Super Seal solution.



Bagpipe SUPPLIES

Accessories

Bagpipes and accessories are available at www.mid-east.com

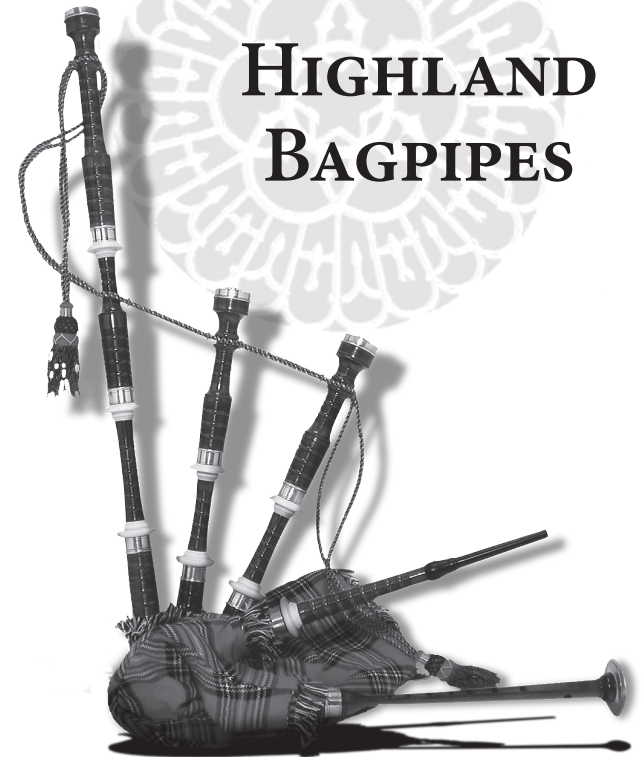


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Bagpipes



HIGHLAND BAGPIPES



— OWNER'S GUIDE —

Learning the *Roosebeck* Bagpipe

A student learns finger positions and songs on a practice chanter. After becoming proficient on the practice chanter, transition to the bagpipe set can begin. At first all drone-stocks are corked while the pipe chanter is played (called "Playing the Goose"). This limits the airflow making it easier to learn arm, breath and finger control. The drones are added, one at a time, as the student becomes more adept. Look for a teacher through Scottish or Shriner groups or at Scottish Game Festivals.

Highland style pipes are tuned to low A on the Celtic scale which is B flat on the Western scale.

Roosebeck Bagpipe Before You Play

Read these instructions thoroughly before working with your bagpipe.

It is extremely important that the pipe chanter is always held by the knob/adjoining end and slowly twist while applying pressure when unplugging or plugging into the stock.

Never hold the chanter in the middle or by the sole. The pipe chanter can be easily cracked if handled improperly. Please be very careful.

Roosebeck Bagpipe Pipe Chanter Reed

The Pipe Chanter Reed is a flat double reed. Plug it into the pipe chanter and test by blowing very hard. If the reed sounds and you are able to hear low notes, you are ready to get started.



If the gap in the lips is too great and the reed does not make a sound or the low notes are not sounding, then moisten the lips and try sounding the reed again. If the reed still will not play, then, and only then, gently press the lips together. Do not do this too much or the lips will close. If the gap in the lips is too small or they are completely closed, moisten the reed by putting the lip end in water for 1 minute. Shake off any excess water. Then open the lips with the broad side of a needle and insert two toothpicks in place and let dry.

It may also be necessary to soften the reed so it will play at a lower air pressure. This is done by scraping the middle of both side edges of the reed with a razor blade or sharp knife. Be careful not to scrape too much or you will lose tonal quality. Do not scrape the center of the flat sides. This may cause the reed to go flat. Insert the chanter into its stock and cork the drone stocks. Inflate the bag through the mouthpiece and play the chanter. After some use, the notes will improve and the reed should play without having to be wetted.

Roosebeck Bagpipe Drone Reeds

There are three drone reeds in a set, one bass and two tenor. The bass drone is the largest reed. The drone reeds plug into the drone stocks. Blow on the reed without the reed tongue touching the inside of your mouth.



A gentle blow should make a squawking sound and a hard blow should close the reed tongue. The tongue of a new reed may have to be adjusted, either opened or closed. A trick to get the reed to sound is to place a piece of thread under the tongue. If the reed is open too far and using too much air, remove the tongue and carefully bend it to remove some of the arch.

Drone reeds are the biggest users of air. They should be kept closed as much as possible. The major pitch of the reed is adjusted by the bridle. It should be set so when the tenor drones are tuned to low A of the chanter about 2" of the tuning slide is showing. The bass drone is tuned to an octave below the tenors. If a drone reed is prone to double toning, change the tension of the bridle.

Roosebeck Bagpipe Flap Valve

The blow pipe flap valve should be conditioned with petroleum jelly for air tightness. The flap must be centered on the end of the end of the blowpipe when it is plugged into the stock.