



CANE FLEXIBILITY TESTER

The purpose of flexibility testing of cane is to discern differences between pieces of cane and select those pieces which have the greatest potential for making excellent bassoon reeds. Valid comparisons can only be achieved if the following criteria are met:

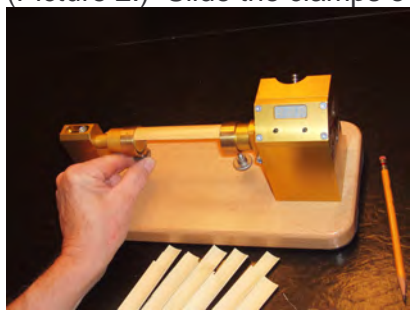
- Gouge thickness piece to piece must be accurate (usually cane from a specific supplier is acceptable). Variation of .002 or .003 in gouge thickness will not have a significant effect on flexibility readings. However, larger variations will affect the results.
- Gouge type (eccentric or concentric) must be the same.
- Cane length must be the same piece to piece.
- Cane width must be the same. Establish a desired width, trim pieces that exceed the width to equalize the pieces being checked.

Step 1— Loosen the clamps just enough to slide them onto the large diameter of the locators. Adjust the flexter tailstock (Picture 1) to fit your cane length. Loosen the lock screw and adjust the tailstock to provide a slight clearance at each end of the cane.



Picture 1

Step 2— Place the piece of cane to be tested on the small diameters between the two horizontal lines. (It is important that the cane be located accurately between the lines. (Picture 2.) Slide the clamps over the cane at each end and tighten securely.



Picture 2

Step 3 — Push the right hand button to turn the flexter on. Push the left hand button to 'zero out' the initial reading. (Picture 3)



Picture 3

Step 4— Place the weight on the actuating shaft (Pictures 4 and 5). In 3 to 5 seconds the cane flexibility reading in degrees will appear.



Picture 4



Picture 5

Step 5—Remove the weight from the actuating shaft, unclamp the cane from the flexter, and write the flexibility number on the cane for future reference.

Step 6 — Repeat the process by clamping the cane, push the zero set button, apply the weight, and within 3 to 5 seconds read the flexibility in degrees.