**Reed Preparation**

***Reprinted from Alexander Superial Reeds***

 (Excellent reeds, by the way)

For optimum reed performance follow these simple preparation steps:

Select the reeds you plan to use presently and soak them in a glass of water (preferably warm) for 2-5 minutes or a bit more if desired. As our high quality cane has more compact pulp, a good soaking is advised even after the first day of use. Dry reeds may not play well.

After soaking and removing excess water, place the reed you want to prep on a piece of glass or other very flat, hard surface and hold it down at the stock with your fingers.

Then stroke the reed forward with the fingers of your other hand from the rear of the vamp to past the tip. Continue this massaging operation 7-10 times or so and the reed may then be played.

**Break-In**

We also suggest that the following break-in procedure be used to insure maximum stability and prolonged reed life.

In the first 2 days of use, only play the reeds in the soft to medium loud range for around 5 minutes or so and somewhat longer the next day. They can now be played normally and may feel very slightly harder after this prep and break-in.

 **Ligature**

We recommend you use a ligature that exerts sufficient and even downward pressure on the reed. A loose or worn synthetic band-type ligature or one that doesn’t apply firm and well-distributed compression on the reed may not seal it to the mouthpiece table properly.

For tips on reed adjustment/care and other information on our reeds, please visit our website at: www.superial.com