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The Bassoon Reed Manual: Lou Skinner's Techniques



Synopsis

"... an extraordinary book, monumental and challenging... Buy this book and immerse yourself in it. You will enter a new world." — American Musical Instrument Society Newsletter

With the help of author James McKay, the late Louis Skinner, America's master bassoon reedmaker, documented his techniques for making specialized and general purpose reeds for the bassoon and the contrabassoon. In this work, step-by-step explanations of reedmaking techniques are complemented by photographs and drawings, making every procedure clear. Throughout, the emphasis is on giving practical advice, not just giving steps to follow but explaining why they are important.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Each of us makes our reeds to our own specifications right down to the colour of the thread. This book details some of Lou Skinner's later techniques for producing remarkable bassoon reeds. While it is targetted at a more advanced bassoonist, hence written by a college professor, it breaks down to the smallest detail the nuance of making a personal reed design that works for each of us. Skinner, like all good academics, stressed open-mindedness. He encouraged bassoonists to continue experimenting to find the palette of colours most suitable for themselves. Anyone who can't produce a fine reed from this book should work with Professor McKay to find what crucial element they are misinterpreting. This is the foremost publication on the subject of reeds to be produced to date.

I waited over a year for the book and it was worth the wait. It is well documented and well worth the

cost of the book. It will definitely be a well used and valuable reference in any serious bassoonist library. It may be too advance for a beginning reed maker (Popkin & Glickman, Chris Weait, or Mark Eubanks reed books may be easier for them to follow). Thank you Mr. Skinner for sharing your knowledge.

I bought this book on the recommendation of my repairman, James Keyes. The contents of this book are interesting, giving some (not much, but some) insight into how a reed actually works. However, a sketchy quality of writing makes it hard to follow with the very few examples provided. It doesn't end there. The instructions and methods provided to produce the various reed models mentioned in the book are completely useless; every reed I've made following his instructions has failed even if I followed them to the exact letter. Interesting if you want to see how Louis Skinner worked. But if you want to use the book for practical purposes, don't bother.

The perfect practical manual for making bassoon reeds! My son is a senior in college and has been on a mission to perfect his reed-making technique. His professor recommended this book, and has become a great reference for him. Seller did a great job shipping quickly.

I studied with Lou in 1980, and this was a fantastic resource to fill in the gaps that crept in over the last few decades! I think it is a lot to digest for the uninitiated, but I don't think that really is the point of the effort by James McKay.

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