

Dave's Reeds Measurements & Overview

Reed measurements are both a matter of personal taste and concession to function. Dave's Reeds are roughly average in design, in order to work for the widest variety of players. We acknowledge and respect the wide variety of often passionate opinion regarding bassoon reed dimensions and design.

Because they are assembled by hand, some small variation is common. In addition, because Dave tests and adjusts each reed before shipping, some changes may be made in the interests of playability (length may be trimmed to bring up overall pitch, collar cut back to decrease overall pitch and make the reed softer, wires rounded or flattened, etc.)

Before assembly, cane is scored, sanded on the inside, and beveled. Wire used is 22 ga. brass or copper/brass alloy wire. Cane is obtained from multiple sources and shape may vary slightly. Blade of the reed in the diagram below is defined as the profiled blade, so distance varies directly with the size of the collar.

Variation in third wire placement may also coincide with thread type - thicker threads will need a little more room between the wire and end of the reed to form a ball. Currently, our pink reeds are using a thicker cotton thread, while other colors are wrapped with a thinner nylon material.

The diagram illustrates the components and measurements of a bassoon reed. It shows a cross-section of the reed with the following labeled parts and dimensions:

- 25mm First Wire:** The distance from the left end of the reed to the first wire.
- 1-4mm Collar:** The distance between the first and second wires.
- 9mm Wire Gap:** The distance between the second and third wires.
- 26-30mm Blade:** The length of the tapered blade section.
- Third Wire Under Wrapping 4-5mm From End:** The distance from the third wire to the right end of the reed.
- 55-56mm Overall Length:** The total length of the reed.