

# Notes on McLaren Synthetic Highland Chanter Reeds

The reeds are available in strengths ranging from 13 (very, very easy) up to 20+ (too hard to play comfortably by most pipers).

A “medium”-strength reed is a 17 as played by Cory on the video.

In comparison to reeds graded by the water manometer method, 13 would be approximately equal to 18 inches of water ( super soft ), 17 approx. equal to 28 inches of water ( soft / medium ), and 20 approx. equal to 35 inches of water ( medium / hard ).

My pressure numbers are unique to these synthetic reeds as they are measured on a special manometer.

## **Please note:**

The reeds are designed to play in chanters made in recent years at a pitch around 473 - 475 Hz at normal room temperature.

**Attempting to play the reed in older, lower-pitched chanters may cause problems with tuning.**

Please contact me for information on the availability of reeds to suit older chanters.

- **Reeds are hand-made and tested to operate at the pressure indicated on them. They should not be altered in any way after that or they can be damaged.**
- **As with cane reeds care must be taken to preserve them from physical damage.**
- **Take care fitting the reed, by not squeezing the blades, holding them only by the staple carefully.**

**Once fitted to the chanter, they can stay in the pipes without withdrawing the chanter after playing, as is commonly done with cane reeds.**

The reed usually only takes 1 - 2 minutes to come into tune (reach operating temperature) and can be left for up to an hour or so, and when played again, operate at the previous pitch making them excellent for playing at weddings or funerals for example.

They have a really good lifespan; some are still played after 5 years of intermittent playing.

The cost of an individual reed is **AUD \$45.00 (including Post / Shipping)**

Payment by Pay Pal ( International orders)

Australian customers, contact me for Bank details, or Pay Pal if that suits

Please indicate your requirements and a request will be sent for payment.

Your order will be dispatched as soon as possible.

An email will be sent to you indicating when they are posted.

Postage is by Air Mail from Australia. Please allow up to 10 days at least after confirmation of your payment; some destinations are taking longer (e.g. Canada)

If you have any problems with your order, please contact me immediately to resolve them.

Malcolm McLaren  
Brisbane, Australia.

[bagpipereeds@gmail.com](mailto:bagpipereeds@gmail.com)