

Clarinet Equipment Selection in an Era of Innovation and Confusion

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Mouthpiece Design:

Facing Type	"Close"	Average	"Open"
Tip opening	1.00-1.05mm	1.05-1.10mm	1.10-1.25+mm
Facing length	Long	Medium long, Medium short	Short
Reeds	Harder	Soft/Hard	Softer
Examples	D'Addario X0 Vandoren M13 Lyre, M15	D'Addario X5 Vandoren 5RV Lyre	D'Addario X10, X10E, X15E, X25E Vandoren M30 Lyre, BD5, B40 Lyre

Mouthpiece Notes: _____

Reed Design:

Thin Blank Reeds:

- Cut closest to bark of cane
- Ease of response and control
- Will feel 1-1.5 strengths softer than a traditional or thick blank of equal strength
- Rico "orange", Rico Royal, Juno

Traditional Blank Reeds:

- Cut close to bark of cane
- Tonal brilliance and clarity
- Ease of response and control
- D'Addario Reserve (blue), Vandoren Traditional (blue)

Thick Blank Reeds:

- Cut close to the center of cane (farther away from bark)
- Tonal "cover" and color
- More flexible
- Can feel .25-1.00 strengths softer than traditional blank reed of equal strength
- D'Addario Reserve Classic (purple), Vandoren V12 (gray)

Filed reeds:

- Added flexibility, response, ease of control
- D'Addario Reserve and Reserve Classic
- Vandoren Traditional and V12

Unfiled Reeds:

- Added projection and tonal brilliance
- Rico Grand Concert Evolution
- Vandoren 56 Rue Lepic (black box)
Vandoren V21 (light blue box)

Reed Notes: _____

Ligature Design Materials:

Material	Tone	Feel	Projection
Synthetic or Leather	Tonal "cover" and depth	Low-medium resistance	Low
Silver	Emphasizes "mid-level" harmonics	Medium resistance	Average
Gold	Tonal brilliance and clarity	Resistant	High

Ligature Notes: _____

Mouthpiece Comparison Chart

Brand											
	Reserve	X0 A=441	X5 A=441		X10 A=441		X10E A=442		X15E A=442		X25E A=442
Vandoren	M13 / M13 Lyre	M15	5RV Lyre		5RV	M30 Lyre	BD5	B40 Lyre	M30	B40	B45 Lyre/B45
Backun	CRT	LRT	TRT		ORT	P1 10		PRT+	ORT+	PRT/ART2	ART
Fobes	CF/CWF	Debut/CF+	2M		2L	3L		4L			
Gigliotti	P34	2	3		4						
Hawkins	B	R									
Hite		41	Pr		41J						
Lomax	A1	S2/O2	A2/S3/O4		A3	A3+	S4	A4			AM
PlayEasy								M1	B2	B1	B3
Pomarico		Emerald	Nigun		Ruby				Sapphire		Diamond
Selmer	B	B*	C/C*/Focus					Concept			
Smith	1*	1+	1++		CH1						
Yamaha		4C	2M		5C						