

# Hoggan Legato Drone Reeds

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We have received a couple of sets of Hoggan Legato drone reeds made in Kirkaldy, Fife, Scotland by Hoggan Reeds. They both arrived in a rigid cardboard box and are very well presented and were received in good condition. The first impression is that these are very well made and well presented.



The reed body is made of black plastic. They are akin to a skinny Ezeedrone reed or Wygent style reed in design. They have a small plastic tongue held in place by heat shrink plastic tubing. They have a threaded tuning screw for a flat screw driver, which seems a good innovation allowing for a coin or similar to be used in an emergency if the screw is tight rather than hunting for an Allen key.

The tenon for hemping on the bass was excellent, but the first set of tenors had quite a thick tenon which did not allow full insertion into some reed seats we tried. This has been remedied and the second set we received was very good indeed. As with any reeds we would recommend using waxed hemp to seat the reeds firmly into the reed seats of your drones.

When the reeds arrived, we found that they all leaked a little air when we blew through them and then stopped the airflow. This seems to be less of an issue with synthetic reeds than cane, but we

feel it affects the overall potential for a very steady reed. The maker suggested to put your thumb on blade between bridle and bottom of slot and just hold up the blade whilst holding down with your thumb basically like you would with a cane reed to get a slight arch on tongue pull bridle back before you do it and it should be fine. This will definitely make any leaking reed steadier. The tuning screws we well fitted (one was a little tight) and all held air.



The reeds went straight out of the box, but should be adjusted to get the best tone as they were a little loud and nasal in tone. A very small adjustment will make an enormous difference, so just the slightest pressure applied to the rubber bridle in the direction you wish it to move is enough. The bridles have a good firmness and are quite thick and rigid, hopefully they will not fatigue like many do. I found the tenors and bass to be set at a very good modern pitch.

The tenors were reasonable well matched for strength and tone.

These are pleasant sounding reeds and have good volume. When tested they produced 117db from the tenors and 110db from the bass, this gave them a slight tenor dominance. The bass I found produced a very nice refined tone, overall the sound was smooth and certainly not a buzzy tone like many synthetic reeds can produce. The bass started effectively every time in both a synthetic and hide bag.

The drones produced a pleasant tone overall with reasonable air efficiency. Like all reeds they do require a little setting up and refining to get the best from them, but there is a wide amount of variables with the tuning plug and bridles to get the results you want.

The reeds are available from: <http://www.hogganreeds.co.uk/>

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