

KINNAIRD REED REVIEW

schoolofpiping.com

When these reeds arrived they were well packaged and presented. They appeared very well made and struck us as to the initial similarity with the Rocket Reeds.

The barrels are a phenolic glass fibre and appear to be hand turned. They have a nose cone that press fits very snugly into the barrel. There is a grub screw that turns with an allen key inside the nose cone to tune the pitch of the reed. A little more user friendly than the Rocket Reeds.

The blades are made from carbon fibre and they are held in place by a rubber sleeve and an O ring is used as a bridle. There is limited adjustability using the bridle due to the way the blades are curved.

The reeds were not quite “plug and play” and initially the tenors did not go very well. The bass however had a good tone and went very well indeed. This is one of the best synthetic bass reeds we have tried. The tenors however could not be balanced and we returned the first set of blades to Kinnaird. Much to his credit he returned a better set very rapidly, but they were still slightly mis-matched for strength and a little difficult to balance. A subsequent set has proved to have a similar minor fault.

Recent sets we have since tried have had tenors perfectly balanced for strength, pitch and tone. Kinnaird are now producing a second variant known as the **Evolution** reed that is a little more vibrant and has more volume. The bass was difficult to set up in some narrower bored bagpipes, but the tone and volume will appeal to many.



Kinnaird Synthetic Bagpipe Drone Reeds

We noted: Good starts. Good stability. Minor variation of tenor balance on all sets tested.



Kinnaird Evolution Drone Reeds

The stability of the reeds was very good. They held tuning between themselves well. What they fail to do is follow the chanter with a synthetic bag, much like the Rocket Reeds. As your chanter sharpens while you play, you need to re-tune. No problem. Put your pipes down for a few minutes and you need to re-start the process. This was a problem when going from a tuning room to competing in a room of differing temperature. You have to ensure that your instrument has fully acclimatised and been played to the point of stability. To vary blowing to offset any variation between chanter and drone pitch (mid performance) causes the tenors to vary in tune as they were not well matched for strength. More recently received reeds did not have this problem.

The reeds performed better in hybrid and hide bags. They proved quite stable and the bass proved a good match for a variety of tenor reed variations.

Recommended as indestructible, almost maintenance free and quite steady. We have heard some good reviews, but we have so far failed to get a full set that really impressed. We have noted many players matching the bass with smaller tongued tenors indicating a similar finding to ourselves regarding the tenor reeds.

More reviews can be seen at: <http://www.schoolofpiping.com/reviews.html>

Kinnaird Reeds are available from the School of Piping Shop.



articles, reviews, sound files
photo albums, audio lessons
news, historic information
and more
for the piper at every level!

www.schoolofpiping.com