

MOOSE HOSE REVIEW

By Andrew Lenz

About 30 minutes ago, one of the staff here at work handed me an unexpected package. Of course, I always get excited with piping goodies and had to open the package immediately! So in the package were four pieces of flexible black tubing with some clear tubing at the end. They are MCS replacement hoses (Three for drones, one for chanter.)

Sometimes, flexibility of MCS tubes is an issue. To give you an idea of how flexible these tubes are, I did a quick image of a drone tube one with a rubber band:



Considering that the exterior diameter of the clear tubing is 3/4", that's a pretty tight loop.

Installation uses the same basic premise of as their Moose Valve: stick it in the stock, rotate it to force the sealing (compression) ring to do its job. No special tool required. Honestly, I can't get over how fast they install. Literally, it took me longer to unzip the bag and find the bottom of the stock than to install it. (And in case you are wondering: yes, I keep a set of bagpipes in my office at work!)

Now, while it's marketed as hoses for a moisture control system and are designed to attach to a canister/box/whatever, the chanter stock hose would be very effective on its own as a tube trap. (The Naill brand tube trap also has a compression ring for installation but requires a tool, though that allows installation without internal bag access.)

Of course, there are a number of different tube traps on the market. If one were to use it as a tube trap, here are some things to consider:

Advantages:

- super easy installation (for synthetic or hybrid bags)
- more surface area
- won't kink due to unique black flex hose

Disadvantages:

- mostly opaque, so harder to see whether your tube has dried out completely or not
- requires zipper/clamp access for installation (unlike their Moose Valve or the Naill brand trap)

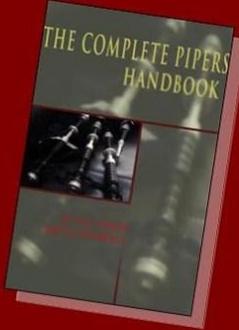
You can buy the Moose chanter tube for \$15 versus about \$50 for the Naill brand tube trap.

As for the official use, it can replace existing tubes for the time being and Lyons is working on their own MCS unit which will be coming this year and integrate their Moose Tubes. The number one thing to walk away with is the ease of installation. A canister system can be fitted or removed without taking the bag of the pipes!

Many thanks to Andrew for letting us to publish his review.

Moose hoses are available from The School of Piping Shop:

http://www.schoolofpiping.com/shop/bagpipes_and_accessories.html



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