

Roddick Drone Reed Review

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Colin Roddick, the maker of the Bagpipe Harness also produces very fine Cane Drone Reeds. Cane reeds have a full harmonic spectrum and can be selected for the best tone to suit an individual pipe. The nature of cane is that it is a hard, very light material that is naturally insulated against temperature change. They are not hard to set up, but you need to have experience to do it easily and know what to do to get the best out of them. Some of that is good education; a lot also is trial and error. Good maintenance habits help also. Once correctly set up and balanced and played regularly the tonal advantages are second to none and they are also just as steady (if not more so) as any synthetic reed.

Synthetic reeds are easy to set up, balance and maintain, but many do not follow the chanter. Some are affected a lot by temperature change and therefore are very different when you put your pipes down for a few seconds and then strike back in. Of course some are more consistent and reliable than others, but you will usually find with synthetics that none display the full tonal spectrum that cane has.

Roddick Reeds are distinguishable from the scoring burned into the tongues. This is like the old trick of filing a groove into the tongue to enhance curvature and makes them almost plug and play and enhances the steadiness. Burning seems to seal the tongue unlike the old method that allowed moisture ingress into the cane.



Roddick Drone Reeds

The reeds are available in inverted and standard models. Inverted reeds, particularly the bass are renowned for ease of striking in and a smoother tone. The tenors are very easily matched and if set up properly and well balanced are very steady and reliable reeds. They are well set to a modern pitch and went well in all bagpipes we tested them in.

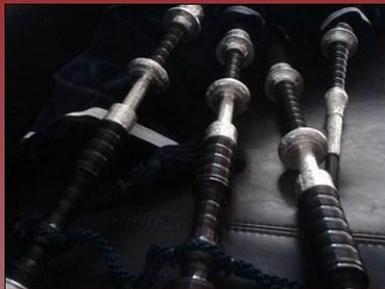
We have spoken to a number of world class soloists in recent times that have used the Roddick Reeds and they are very impressed with the tone and stability. Since then it appears a number of the top Grade 1 bands including SFU have adopted these reeds.

If deciding to return to the “good old days” of Cane Drone Reeds, or you are seeking that something from your drones that synthetics just don’t seem to be able to offer, these are the most user friendly cane reeds we have come across and are most certainly worth a try.

Available from [The School of Piping Shop](http://www.schoolofpipingshop.com) or direct from Roddick Reeds at:
<http://www.bagpipeharness.com/reeds/>

More reviews can be found at: <http://www.schoolofpipingshop.com/reviews.html>

Roddick Reeds can be purchased from:
http://www.schoolofpipingshop.com/shop/bagpipes_and_accessories.html



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