

# COLIN KYO DRONE REEDS

Colin Kyo drone reeds by Murray Huggins arrive in a rigid plastic case and are very well presented. The first impression is that these are handmade and not mass produced and reminded me somewhat of the Rocket Reeds in terms of their manufacture.

The reed body is made of the same or a similar material to the Rockets. They are more like an inverted Ezeedrone reed in design though. They have a small plastic tongue held in place by a plastic pin. A lot better than the methods used to anchor most reed tongues. They have a threaded tuning screw and a good size tenon for hemping.



*Colin Kyo Drone Reeds*

When the reeds arrived, I found that they all leaked air when I blew through them and then stopped the airflow. I eventually ran some paper under the tongues a few times and by applying pressure to the tongue and dragging the paper out I eventually either cleaned the reed bed or polished it enough that they then held air. The tuning screws seem a little loose, but they hold air so a little thread tape could be added if this causes concern.

The reeds did not go straight out of the box and I had to move the bridles back a little. A very small adjustment will make an enormous difference, so just the slightest pressure applied to the rubber bridle, in the direction you wish to move it is enough. I found the tenors to be a little flatter in pitch than I would like and had to push the tuning screws all the way into the reed to get them to tune where I wanted. The bass was the opposite and I found that even with the tuning screw all the way out, the drone tuned up near the hemp-line on both joints. I changed pipes and found it was very good on an old set of Hendersons.

The tenors are very bright sounding and have good volume. The bass I found was quite refined. The sound produced was quite a refined sound with bright tenors, but not a dominant bass. Certainly not a buzzy tone like many synthetic reeds. A pleasant tone overall, good air efficiency and a good steady reed. They do require a little setting up, and seemed to go better in the Henderson style bagpipe (which is what I believe Murray makes).

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