

Crozier Carbon and Omega Drone Reeds

These are very similar reeds in many respects, but worlds apart in terms of performance and adjustability.

The **carbon bladed reed** has a preset body, with a ramped bed for the flat carbon blade to lie across. The angle of the bed can be adjusted by the maker if there are any issues with the reed stopping etc. The blade is held by a rubber O ring recessed into the reed body and an identical O ring is used as a bridle. These are very effective. The reed has a long hemped section which seats well into the drone. The hemp should be replaced as the waxed thread provided is too thick and does not seat as well as it could.

These are truly a plug and play reed. I like the tone off the bass drone and the tenors are vibrant but can be a little too buzzy in some drones. The tenors will be exceptionally steady if perfectly matched for strength. If not they will seem unsteady in the hands of a poor blower.

There is little that I can say that is negative about these reeds, they are highly recommended.



Crozier Carbon

Omega

The **Omega reed** has the same blade and a similar body. It is all held together by a steel bracket which, with the aid of a series of grub screws is adjustable in a multitude of ways. There is a grub screw that holds the blade in place. Do not over tighten this. There is a grub screw that holds the metal clamp that acts as a bridle in place. Do not over tighten this, but ensure it will not move. There is a grub screw that fits into the rear of the reed and adjusts the curvature of the body, altering the strength of the reed. I have found these can vibrate loose and rather than over tighten them, a little “lock tight” works well.

I have found the reeds to open up a little in strength in hotter weather and close off in the cold. This can affect the set up when playing during the day and later on a colder night. I think it has to do with the expansion and contraction of the steel clamp. This also can hold a shape, so if trying to weaken the reed, it is advisable to loosen the grub screw at the rear, bend the body to a more closed position and then adjust the grub screw to get the strength required.

Initially I found the reed quite confusing, until I established a formula to get the result that I wanted. I found them overall to be a little buzzy in tone. I used a rubber O ring to separate the steel clamp from the reed seat, giving some cushioning. I then sleeved the canister in the Ross system which reduced the airflow much in the same way as a valve or tone enhance and achieved a more pleasant result to my ear.

A very popular reed, ultimate adjustability, but can be a little confusing for a novice and is somewhat effected by temperature.