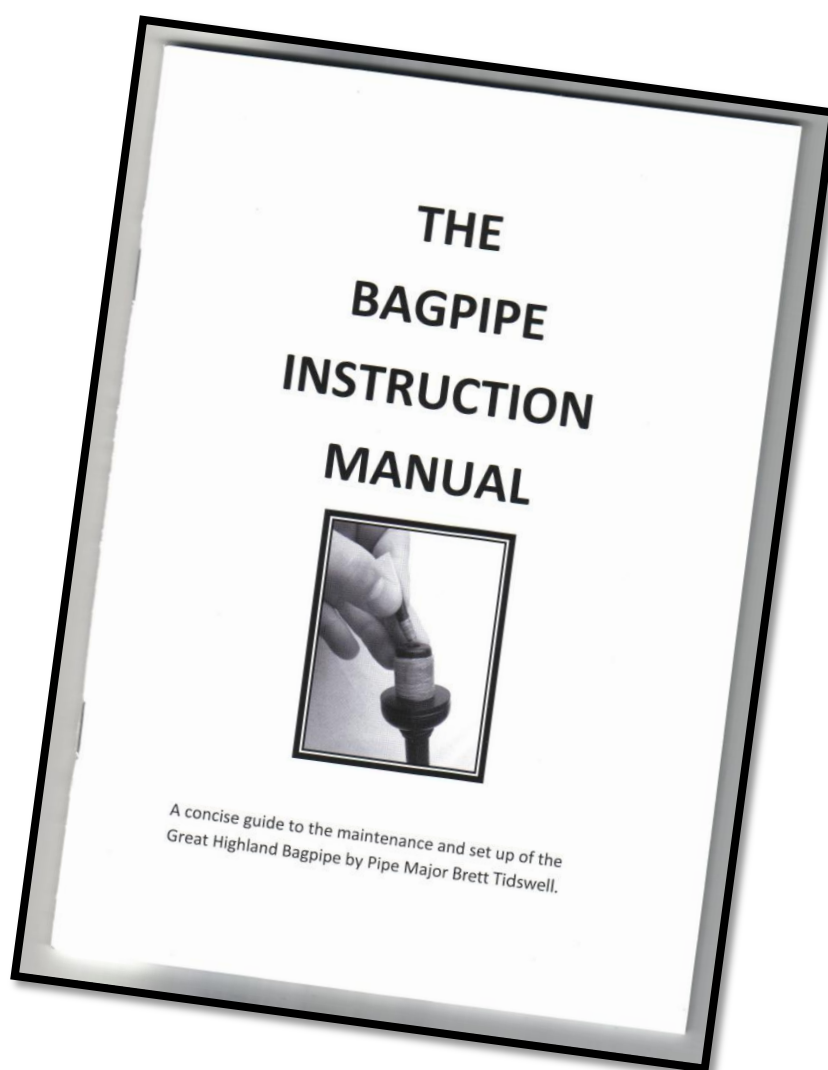


The Bagpipe Instruction Manual

“The Bagpipe Instruction Manual” is a new publication by Brett Tidswell (National Piping Principal of the Australian Pipe Band Association, Pipe Major City of Adelaide Pipe Band and Piper with Strathclyde Police Pipe Band). Brett is also the author of “The Complete Pipers Handbook” which has become the benchmark for non-musical bagpipe publications, in both quality and content.



This new publication provides a more concise view of bagpipe set up and maintenance that is easy to follow and small enough to carry with you everywhere you go, inside your pipe case. The book measures less than 8 ½" X 6" and has 32 pages of material all about bagpipe set up, maintenance and problem solving. Being 100% black and white with many pictures to demonstrate the procedures, it is an inexpensive publication that will surely become a standard “must have” among the

pipng community. This is not a replacement for “The Complete Pipers Handbook”, but a handy supplement to keep with you when you need it the most.

The book includes chapters on, things you will need, a bagpipe diagram, how to tie drone cords, details about bags and covers, blow stick, valves and mouthpiece maintenance and advice, how to wind joints and slides, moisture control systems, drones and chanter, reeds and problem solving, maintenance checklists and how to best care for your Instrument. There is no other material discussed which usually pads out other books and no advertising.

This will provide help and advice when you need it the most, whether it is at a practice or preparing for a performance.

Here is a review by John Miner of Utah, USA. This has been published on his blog and on the bagpipe forums.

“I recently had the opportunity of acquiring “The Bagpipe Instruction Manual “by Brett Tidswell. Not to be confused with the more comprehensive “Complete Piper’s Handbook”, this smaller, 32 page, manual was designed to provide as much useful information on bagpipe setup and maintenance as possible into a small, portable, booklet that can be thrown into the pipe case and reviewed at a moment’s notice.

Anyone who knows me knows that I am a complete nut when it comes to bagpipe maintenance. I have always felt that there is a special relationship and connection between the piper and his/her instrument. The time and energy one invests in learning and caring for the pipe will be returned many times in the form of a pipe that sounds great and is reliable and dependable every time. I have long been a fan of Brett’s schoolofpipng.com site and have found it a great resource for anyone who is interested in bagpipe care and maintenance.

I was actually very surprised with how much information Brett was able to cram into so few pages. Although similar in appearance to the old classic “Piper’s Handbook” by Pipe Major John MacLellan, I found the “Bagpipe Instruction Manual” to cover more topics and to be much more in depth. There is no time spent covering history or other topics. The book is 100% focused on providing clear and helpful information. It also contains many helpful photos, including detailed instructions on tying hemp bridles for cane drone reeds, diagrams of how to alter chanter reeds, and many others.

I think this book will become required reading for all of my students. The bagpipe can be an intimidating beast for a new player. This book provides a clear list of all the “must haves” for your pipe box, instructions on drone cords, bags, bag covers, valves, moisture control, reed basics, and many other topics. All very helpful for the novice player. Having said this, the book also contains enough valuable information to make it very much worthwhile to the intermediate to advanced players. The largest portion of the book is dedicated solely to reed trouble shooting and manipulation, both for drones and chanter. Pretty much every possible problem is addressed, and simple, helpful solutions are provided for each. It certainly goes well beyond the basics and is probably the best I’ve seen in the form of a small, comprehensive maintenance and setup guide. Certainly a worthwhile resource to have

available for any piper. There is also some mention of matters of refinement, pitch, tone, and tuning positions, but readers are referred to the "Complete Piper's Handbook" for more in depth discussion on these issues.

I appreciate this book because it helps take a lot of the mystery and superstition out of bagpipe setup. Certainly some these techniques take time to master, but many other tips can be applied immediately and become a great help to the player. There is no reason in this day and age that pipers of any ability cannot have a well set up, reliable, and pleasant instrument to enjoy. For those looking for a compact, clear, and comprehensive guide to "demystifying" bagpipe setup and maintenance, or simply looking learning a few new tricks to have a better sounding bagpipe, this book is a must for the pipe case."



Currently available from :

http://www.schoolofpiping.com/shop/beginners_publications.html and soon from other selected stockists.

At Last!!!

The Bagpipe Instruction Manual

Finally, a pipe case size (A5) instruction manual to accompany you wherever you take your bagpipe.

Available from: www.schoolofpiping.com and stockists

