

KINNAIRD REED REVIEW

When these arrived they were well packaged and presented. They appeared very well made and struck us as to the similarity with the Rocket reeds.

The barrels are a phenolic glass fibre and appear to be hand turned. They have a nose cone that press fits very snugly into the barrel. There is a grub screw that turns with an allen key inside the nose cone to tune the pitch of the reed. A little more user friendly than the Rockets.

The blades are made from carbon fibre and they are held in place by a rubber sleeve and an O ring is used as a bridle. There is limited adjustability using the bridle.

The reeds were not quite “plug and play” and the tenors did not go very well. The bass however had a good tone and went very well. The tenors however could not be balanced and we returned the blades to Kinnaird. Much to his credit he returned a better set very rapidly, but they were still slightly mis-matched. A subsequent set has proved to have a similar minor fault.

We noted: Good starts. Good stability. Minor variation of tenor balance on all sets tested.

The stability of the reeds was very good. They held tuning between themselves well. What they fail to do is follow the chanter, much like the Rocket reeds. As your chanter sharpens while you play, you need to re-tune. No problem. Put your pipes down for a few minutes and you need to re-start the process. This was a problem when going from a tuning room to competing in a room of differing temperature. You have to ensure that your instrument has fully acclimatised and been played to the point of stability. To vary blowing to offset any variation between chanter and drone pitch (mid performance) causes the tenors to vary in tune as they were not well matched for strength.



Recommended as indestructible, almost maintenance free and quite steady. We have heard some good reviews, but we have so far failed to get a set that really impressed. We have noted many players matching the bass with Ezeedrone tenors indicating a similar finding to ourselves regarding the tenor reeds.

www.schoolofpiping.com

www.schoolofpiping.com