

Thank you for purchasing one of my mouthbows. I hope you are pleased and I look forward to hearing your comments on the instrument.

This mouthbow is the result of many years of experimentation and the production of various models of reeded mouthbows. The original concept married the bow's string to a Jew's harp reed (made of wood). The current design incorporates a very thin wood membrane and a built in flexibility, which permits a strong vibration in the wood membrane. This is the embouchure of the instrument and is intended to be super resonant. The thick frame and bridge design does not encourage vibration throughout the bulk of the instrument. My working premise has always been "Any sound you can't get into your mouth is working against you". My solution to the problem is now in your hands; ENJOY!

Further innovation by the late Dan Gossi led to the two string mouthbow. Dan was the sole manufacturer of the reeded mouthbows between 2001 and 2015?

About Your Mouthbow

- This is a fragile instrument. The most delicate element is the very thin wood membrane in the middle of the reed. I recommend you avoid touching this wood with fingers or tongue. Much of this instrument's harmonic output is a direct result of the design of this "reed. "
- The wooden spring is also fragile and care should be taken that the instrument is not dropped or hit.
- The included string is a ball end .013 guitar string, however any string sizes up to 40 gauge (.040) may be used.
- It is VERY important to loosen the string(s) when storing your mouthbow.
- I have set the post length between the reed and spring so that it places the strings between the two supporting points at the base of the reed. This alignment keeps the strings tension pulling straight through the reed. It is very important that this post be reinstalled when replacing a string. Should it become lost, you can make a new post from a short length of a popsicle stick, sanded to a chisel profile on the ends. Determining the exact length for this post may require a few tries, until the string is correctly aligned.
- While I have not had a string break, the possibility of a string breakage does exist. (Eye protection is recommended) Do not over tighten the string or get too carried away, and the string should last until you want to change it.

- The included baton is for striking the string. Other methods of vibrating the string include guitar picks or finger picks, bowing or bare fingers. If the string is played at a relaxed pitch, plucking parallel to the width of the string, keeps the string from hitting the reed. My preferred way to accomplish this type of pluck is to hold the wood with my thumb and pointer finger and using my index finger pluck the string. When tuned to a higher note, the baton which strikes the string perpendicular to the reed will produce the loudest vibration.
- Another way to pluck the string is with the hand holding the bow. A finger of this hand, usually the pointer, can either pluck or mute the string, and hand placement can be moved to allow this mute to occur at a harmonic of the string.

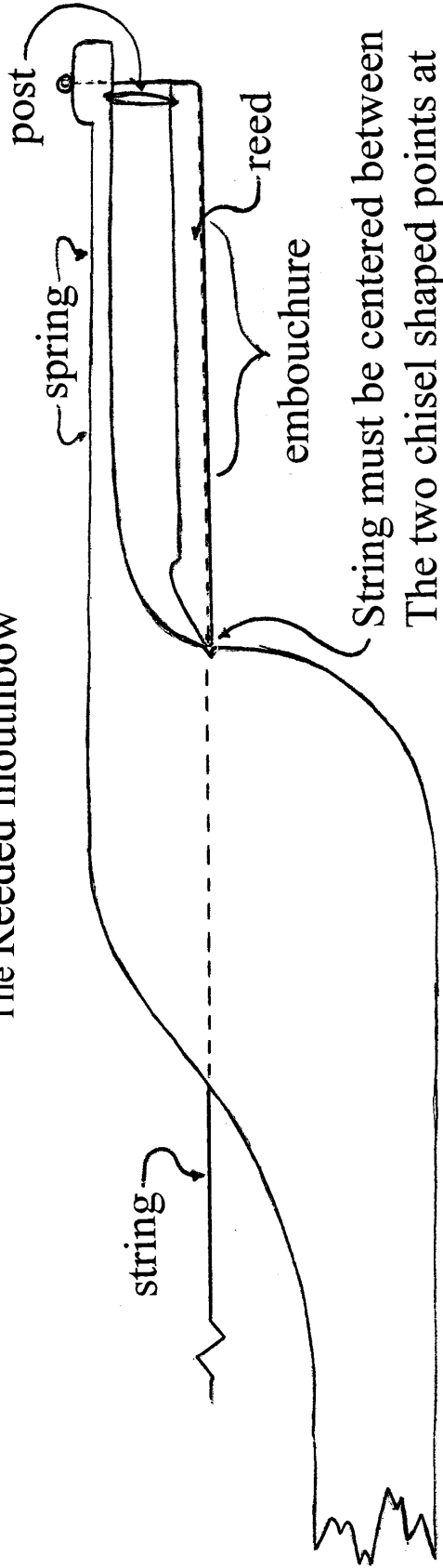
Questions and comments may be directed to:

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Some additional information is available in Wayland's "Mouthing Off" articles located at <http://jewsharpguild.org/whmoindx.html>

The Reeded mouthbow



String must be centered between
The two chisel shaped points at
The reed's base.

