

## **How to Shorten a REED** .... It is not difficult to turn your 16" reed into a 15" one....

Needed:

Pair of pliers .. vice grips for metal ends are ideal but normal ones will do, standard pliers for the green/blue/grey ends are fine.

Small hammer   Hacksaw or similar   Pair of scissors   Marker

Step 1. Read these instructions through before you do anything.

Step 2. Measure the overall length of the NEW reed and write it down.

Step 3. Calculate the difference between what you measured in #2 and what you need to be the new finished length. e.g. new reed is 24.5" and you need it to be 23", the difference is 1.5"

Step 4. Write this difference down

Step 5. Peel back the tape on one end of the reed, both sides.

There are now 2 options to follow from here, according to the makeup of the end bars...

If a metal strip and metal caps, read on... If a green/blue/grey plastic bar and caps (in one), go to Step 12

Step 6. Grip the metal end bar with the pliers near a 'cap', pliers at 90° to the reed bars.

Step 7. Have someone hold the reed for you.

Step 8. Hold the pliers and GENTLY tap the nose of the pliers in the direction away from the reed, avoiding hitting the dents of the reed. The intention is to move the end bar off the reed. Give it one or two GENTLE taps until you see it has moved out slightly.

Step 9. Move the pliers to the other end of the same bar and repeat a couple of small gentle taps until you see it move away slightly.

Step 10. Repeat alternate ends of the metal bar, keeping the bar parallel to the reed as it moves out.

Step 11. Very soon you will have the metal bar in your pliers and your friend will have the reed in their hands and the caps with nails? will have fallen to the ground!

Step 12. Green/blue/grey plastic ends? A lot easier... Gently grasp one circle end, pliers at 90° to the reed bars and move the pliers up and down gently, pulling away from the reed as you do. You will soon notice a slight gap. Repeat at the other end of the plastic bar. Repeat in small steps on each end until the plastic bar is removed. Do not grab the bar itself or you may break it!

Step 13. Enjoy a cup of tea while you take a good look at the end of the reed now uncovered. Note the bare timber and the black cord... make a note of the timber length exposed.

Step 14. Recall the number you recorded in Step 4, above. Subtract this length from end of the exposed timber you now see and make a mark on the reed.

Step 15. Hold the reed up against your loom to verify all is good... and that it will fit into place at that length, allowing a small extra just in case

Step 16. Satisfied all is good... cut the reed, top and bottom, at the mark you made. Ensure you are in the same gap on both sides.

Step 17. Unwrap the cord on each side until ONE bar is free. Remove the bar/dent. Unwrap cord from each side until the exposed timber is the same as you noted in step 13, above. There is no set number of bars you will remove as this will vary according to the dpi of the reed being modified. A 16dpi reed will have more bars removed than a 6 dpi reed to expose the required length of timber to refit the metal bar/caps or green bar.

Step 18. When happy the length of timber is the same as you saw in step 13, cut the black cord off snug at the reed. Generally there will be a dent (bar) left on the end... just have a look at the other end of the reed and make it the same.

Step 19. Place the metal bar/caps in position and drive in the nails or replace the plastic end bar in position on the end of the reed and gently tap onto the reed

Step 20. Check the reed will fit into position in the beater

Step 21. Roll the tape back into place and cut the excess off, making it the same as the other end.

Step 22. Give yourself a pat on the back for a job well done.

cheers

Peter