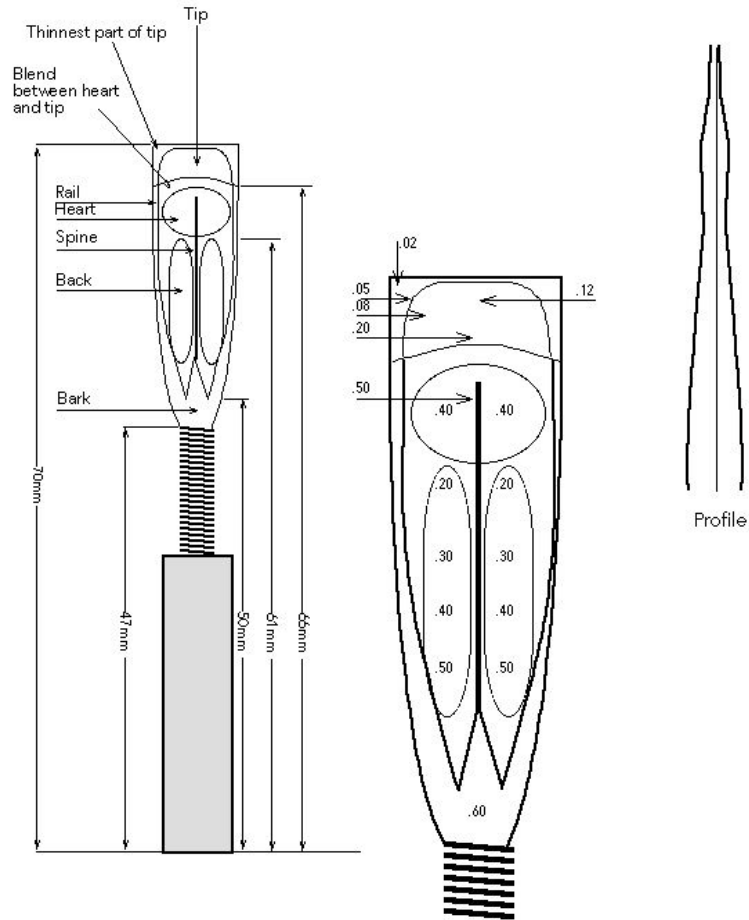


## Reed-Making Basics:



Typical measurements of my oboe reeds shown in millimeters. This is not a "recipe," but as a basic design it should result in a reed with structure, ease, warmth and vibrancy.

Chart from Prof. Martin Schuring

### **Terms:**

Positive scraping= adding vibration and sound

- More blend and unity needed
- Tip: knife rolled to the middles

Negative scraping= subtracting vibration and sound

- More definition and separation needed
- Tip: knife rolled to edges

Crow

- the crow (noun): the sound a reed makes when you crow it
- to crow (verb): placing the throat of the reed on the center of your bottom lip, and blowing a fast airstream.

1 to 2 Test

- Crow the reed with an airstream shaped as a *pp-fz* crescendo.
- Sound a high C and then add in the low C.

## REED-MAKING PRIORITIES

- 1) RESPONSE
- 2) PITCH
- 3) TONE

*“When it comes to reeds, remember this alone: most important is response, followed by pitch, and THEN the tone!”*

### 1) RESPONSE-

#### **Crow the Reed**

- **No sound**

Not a reed yet>>Positive scraping needed

- Make the whole reed thinner
- Ensure the tip is thinner than the body

- **1 sound**

Needs to be more vibrant>>Positive scraping needed

- mThin the tip
- Scrape the body

- **2 sounds (our goal)**

Great! Now check the comfort with the 1 to 2 test

- 1 is resistant/slow to start
  - Scrape the final 0.5-1 mm of the tip
  - Scrape the corners of the tip
- 2 is resistant/slow to add in
  - Thin the tip
  - Scrape the channels

- **3+ sounds**

Needs to be refined>>Negative scraping needed

- Scrape the shoulders
- Thin the sides/corners of the tip
- Define the tip

## **2) PITCH**

### **Crow the Reed**

- Flat
  - Is it hard or comfortable?
    - Hard: massage the back, scrape the back, or square the W
    - Comfortable: clip the tip
- Sharp
  - Is it hard or comfortable?
    - Hard: Go back to 1) RESPONSE
    - Comfortable:
      - Plays in tune in the oboe: leave it
      - Plays sharp in the oboe: scrape the body

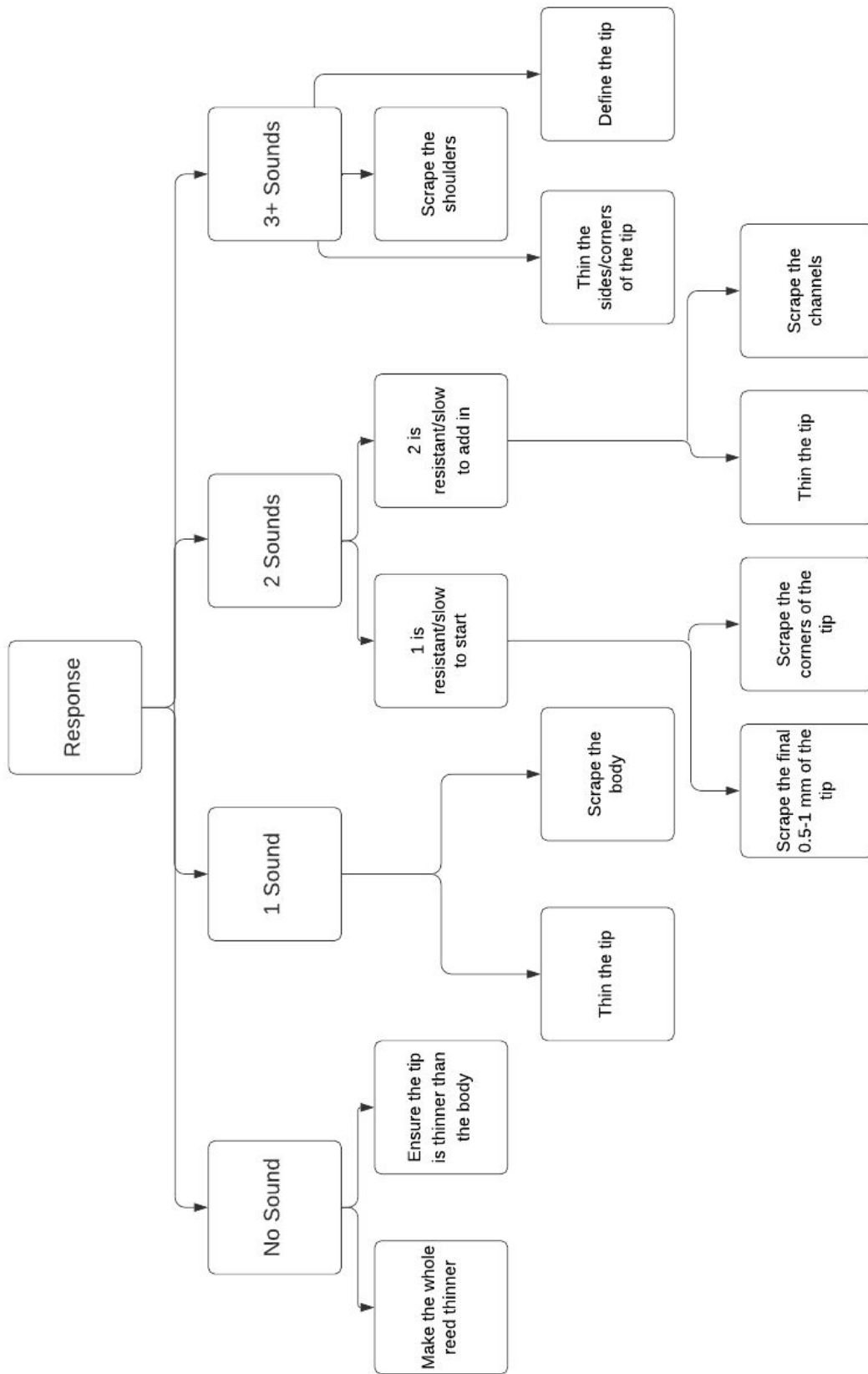
### **Play in the Oboe**

- Octave test
  - Sagging octaves
    - Scrape the shoulders
    - Thin the sides/corners of the tip
    - Deepen the center of the channels (exaggerates spine)
  - Octaves hold
    - Good! Move on the 3) TONE

## **3) TONE**

### **Play in the oboe**

- Sounds stuffy
  - Search for positive scraping opportunities
- Sounds zippy
  - Search for negative scraping opportunities



Dr. Abby Y. Held

