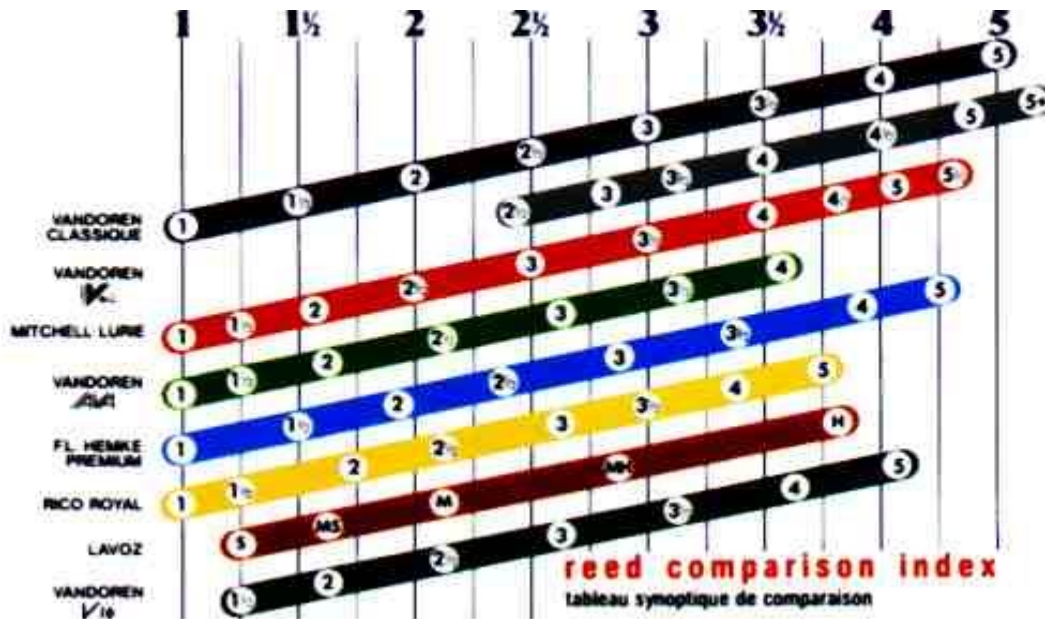


Reed Comparisons:



- There are many factors to good tone production. No amount of skill or effort will compensate for a reed that is chipped, cracked or warped. A great reed may be the most important factor in determining how you sound on any given day.
- In selecting a reed, make sure it is shaped evenly from side to side, checking for consistent thickness and selecting only flat reeds. The reed should fit exactly over the opening of your mouthpiece. It is important to have several reeds prepared so that you will have predictable ones ready.
- Preparing your reed is very important - you must moisten your reed before playing; if not flat, hold it against the flat part of your mouthpiece with your thumb for a few seconds.
- As you place the reed between the mouthpiece and ligature, experiment with the placement. Some reeds may respond best when placed even with the tip, others slightly above or below the tip. Humidity and temperature changes will greatly affect how each reed will play, and explains why a reed responds differently from day to day.