



5. Unwinding the string causes the dents to come out. I removed enough dents to make space to reinstall the bar. Next, I cut the excess string off.



6. The bar is slid back into the groove, the brass caps replaced and nailed in. Finally, the tape is re-adhered until it's even with the brass caps and the excess is trimmed.



7. Here's the shortened reed. I plan to use the leftover piece in my tension box during sectional warping.

Jim also commented on the common misconception that buying carbon steel reeds instead of stainless steel reeds will save you a lot of money. He points out that most of the cost is in the labor to manufacture the reed, not in the materials. Carbon steel is less expensive, but has the issue of rusting if exposed to moisture. Jim is able to remove rust from a newer style reed, but not from the older style reed. A future article will cover how to shorten the newer type of reed where the dents are held in place with epoxy.



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