



Bassoon Reeds

Forming the Reed

Step 6: Adding the 2nd and 3rd Wires

The next step is to place the third, or bottom, wire. The twist for the third wire should be on the same side as the first wire. Wrap the wire around the reed in the same manner as we did with the first, loosely twisting it up with your fingers. Use your pliers to pull the twisted wire away from the reed. At this point, you can trim it if you'd like. Pull the wire to remove any slack, then twist up. Repeat this as many times as needed to secure it. The wire is tight enough if you can wiggle the stem and the rest of the wire doesn't move. Avoid pulling and twisting at the same time, as this may stretch or weaken the wire. If you break it, simply start again with a new one.

Once the wire is tight, you can remove the cotton twine. Now, add the second, or middle, wire. Place this wire 5/16 of an inch from the first. Determine this distance by measuring from the space between the two wraps of the first wire to the space between the two wraps of the second wire. Finish tightening the wire once it is in the correct position; it should be round and tight.