



Bassoon Reeds

Processing Cane

Step 4: Sanding the Cane

The next step is sanding. Begin with a piece of 220 or 320-grit wet/dry sandpaper. Cut a strip of sandpaper approximately 1 inch wide and 3 inches long. Usually, 320-grit sandpaper will do the job adequately. However, if the inside of the cane is especially rough, you may want to use 220-grit instead. Hold the wet piece of cane between the heel of your palm and your center finger. Press the sandpaper into the concave surface of the cane, holding it with your fingertips. Sand back and forth along the grain of the wood. Keeping the cane and sandpaper wet will help to lift the wood fibers from the grain. Occasionally, rinse the piece of cane to remove any grit. Draw your thumb across the cane to feel the smoothness of the surface. When the grain is undetectable, the sanding is complete.