



AULOS: Getting the instrument ready for playing

First of all you have to prepare the reed for playing. The tip of the reed is still closed, because the cap pressed the tip together.

First put the reeds in the aulos, you have to **remove the cap before**.

(If you ordered more than 2 reeds, the reeds are numbered. Always use reeds with the same number (e.g. 1 1 or 2 2) at the same time)

Put the tip of the reed up to the bridle in warm water for about 5 seconds.

Give the reed about half a minute time to open the tip.

Now you can try starting to play the aulos.

If it is not ready for playing, water the tip again for some seconds.

Wait a moment, so the tip can open a little more.

Try again, now the reed should be ready for playing.

Important: After playing put the cap on the tip again!

You can adjust the pitch of the instrument when you open or close the tip of the reed. This can be done with the bridle (the brass wire). Adjusting the bridle will also help, if the reed is overblowing.

For pitch correction of single tones, you can put some wax (e.g. beeswax) in the whole. The wax should not reach into to central bore and be set in reed direction. This will lower a tone.

The mouthpiece correction is also important on these type of instrument.

All positions of the tone holes and all tone hole diameters are as on the Louvre original, with measurements verified by Dr. Stefan Hagel (<http://homepage.univie.ac.at/stefan.hagel/>)

P.S.: In the box with the reeds you can find some black straps. These straps are made out of racing tubes from bicycles (only these have a small diameter). It's easy to close some tone holes with this straps and so you can play different notes on the instrument. I know that these straps are not authentic. You also can make some wooden plugs for the tone holes or make some straps out of leather.

P.P.S: Sorry for my English, I'm not a native speaker. If you have some corrections for me, please send me an email.



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