

## INSTRUMENT ANALYSIS

Take stock and address each of the items on these lists to make your bagpipe a positive factor in your strike-ins.

### CHECKLIST I: TENOR DRONES

**SEAT THE REEDS FIRMLY IN THE REED SEATS OF YOUR DRONES.** It's a good idea to have a "safety line"—an extra strand of hemp that prevents the reed from ever falling into the bag should it come loose from the reed seat.

**ADJUST THE BRIDLES SO THAT THE REEDS FUNCTION OPTIMALLY.** The adjustment should be done with any other adjustments needed to some of the modern drone reeds. In other words, your bridle adjustment should be done after you have made the proper adjustments to tuning screws and whatnot to your particular make of reed. Opinions vary, but for me the optimal bridle setting is where the reed takes a conservative amount of air but will not shut off with reasonable overpressure. The modern makes of artificial reeds make it extremely easy to make fine adjustments in this regard. Some pipers set their reeds to stop with the slightest overpressure. These pipers can suffer drone stoppages at inopportune times.

**ADJUST YOUR BRIDLES TO GET A GOOD INITIAL SOUND.** The reeds should not "whistle" when first blown at normal operating pressure. When blown, the reed should "double-tone." That means, the reed should start with a higher-pitched initial tone, then drop into the lower-pitched standard tone when the blowing pressure nears normal operating strength. The

