

Hints n Pipers, some tips and hints to help keep your bagpipes well maintained during the lockdown!

Firstly I ask myself these 4 questions every single time I play. I then know without any doubt that bagpipe maintenance problems are not going to interfere with my playing.

Question 1: Is my bag airtight?

This seems quite obvious, but, the one time you overlook this detail, your practice session will be a MESS! You won't be able to get a steady sound, you certainly won't be able to get yourself in tune and you'll be struggling so much that none of your tunes will come out musically either.

Question 2: Are all of my joints airtight?

Next up, I make sure that all of the joints (where the drones/chanter/blowstick connect to the bag) are 100% snug.

Question 3: Are all of my reed-seats airtight?

Where the reed meets the bagpipe - this is an often overlooked detail that can leak a lot of air.

Question 4: Are my drone reeds calibrated? (i.e. - are they taking the perfect amount of air)

This last question is extremely important. If your drone reeds are taking too much air, you're going to have trouble blowing steady, tuning yourself, staying in tune, and maintaining stamina.

We will look into drone calibration at a later date, Let's just say for now that it's a technique that we use to set each drone reed to take the perfect amount of air.

Next time you get the pipes out for your daily practice try asking yourself these four questions.

Sent from my iPhone