



## Basic setting up of Hope combination A/D smallpipes

The pipes are sent out in playing order and all you need to do is attach the drone top, connect the bellows and start playing.

I will outline a few things that hopefully will help you set up your pipes and clear up a few tuning queries.

### Chanters

Your pipes come with an **A** and **D** chanter both tuned to orchestral pitch (A440hz).

Each chanter has its own split stock, when changing chanters remove the stock and chanter together.

By keeping the chanter in the split stock it reduces the chance of damaging the chanter reed when swapping chanters and helps to protect the reed when not in use.



The **A** chanter scale from the lowest note up is  
G nat, A, B, C#, D, E, F#, G nat, A  
and will play in the following keys, A, B minor and D

The **D** chanter scale from the lowest note up is  
C nat, D, E, F#, G, A, B, C nat, D  
and will play in the following keys D, E minor and G.

For the purpose of this guide I will refer to the actual notes played on the respective chanter

## Drone layout

When playing your pipes you will only need 3 drones working, they will be a Bass, Baritone and tenor drone.



- From left to right
- 1) **A** bass drone
  - 2) **A** baritone/ **D** bass drone
  - 3) **A** tenor drone / **D** baritone
  - 4) **D** tenor drone

The **A** bass and **D** tenor both have a small stopper attached, these will be used when swapping chanter.

## Drone Tuning

### **A** Chanter

When you are playing the **A** chanter you will need drones.

- 1) **A** bass drone
- 2) **A** baritone/ **D** bass drone
- 3) **A** tenor drone / **D** baritone

Start by placing the small stopper drone 4) **D** tenor drone  
Tune drones 1 and 3 to Low **A** and drone 2 to **E**.

### Now for a key change.

Remove the **A** chanter including split stock as one piece and replace with the **D** chanter and split stock.

#### D Chanter

You will need drones

- 2) **A** baritone/ **D** bass drone
- 3) **A** tenor drone / **D** baritone
- 4) **D** tenor drone

Place the stopper in drone 1) **A** bass drone and remove the stopper from drone 4) **D** tenor drone.

Tune drone 2 and 4 to **D** and drone 3 to **A**.

You will soon notice that drone 3 will not need tuning between chanter swaps.

Drone 2 does move a lot because it acts as both a baritone for the **A** and bass for **D**.

### Bellows

If you are a GHB player starting with bellows then I can only say that the effort spent learning bellows technique is worth it in the long run because it means a more stable instrument due to lack of moisture and providing you don't damage the chanter reed then the reed should last for a good few years because it won't deteriorate due to moisture.

The connector hose supplied with Hope pipes will probably be a bit too long this is so you can shorten it to your required length, do this a little at a time, then play them for a while to see if more needs to be taken off.

Happy Playing

If you require further advice please email [iain@bagpipereeds.co.uk](mailto:iain@bagpipereeds.co.uk)