

What does a volleyball player and reeds have in common?



They have to rotate.

The great thing about volleyball players is that, with the rotation rule, they have to play all the positions on the court. The movement of players keeps everyone fresh and in the game and keeps everyone's skills sharp. Reeds are the same way. If you rotate reeds, you allow your reeds to rest during performance so each reed stays strong, plays better and lasts longer. It helps your embouchure stay strong too. Any way you look at it, rotating your reeds will help you play better. Consider it the perfect set up for a winning sound.

For more information on rotating reeds, go to www.WhyVandoren.com

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Building a Successful Band

Tips to Make Your Woodwind Section Better

Tip #2: Give your reeds some rest and strengthen your embouchure.

Background: Reeds are a lot like our muscles.

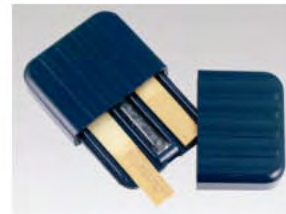
When we work them hard, we have to rest them so they can come back strong. With reeds, every time we play them we exert a tremendous amount of airspeed across the tip. The tip vibrates at a feverish rate to create enough vibration to produce the desired sound.

Problem: Continued use of the same reed weakens it.

The reed weakens gradually and as you continue to play it you begin to adjust to the weaker reed. Your embouchure begins to loosen to accommodate for the change in reed strength. This is easy to test. How many times have you put on a new reed of the same strength and found it to be very hard? That's because you've adjusted to a weaker reed.

Solution: Rotate your reeds.

There are a number of reed cases on the market you can use to organize your reeds in at least a four-reed rotation. Play a different reed every time you start a new session. If you practice in the morning and then go to a rehearsal in the afternoon, change reeds.



Result:

What you'll find is your reeds will last longer, your embouchure will stay strong, and you won't notice as much as a variance when you break in new reeds.

