

THE ANCIENT HOBBYIST

AULOS

An Aulos is a Greek reed instrument consisting of a cylindrical or slightly conical tube generally about 50 cm long. Primitive examples were of reed or bone, but wood and ivory became common. The aulos accompanied a wide range of Greek activities: it was present at sacrifices, dramas and even wrestling matches, the discus throw & sailor's dances on triremes. Plato associates it with the ecstatic cults of Dionysus and the Korybantes. In his writings, Plato even banned the aulos from his Republic.

MATERIALS

- LENGTH OF BAMBOO
- SMALL HANDSAW
- 1 DRINKING STRAW
- CLOTHES IRON
- DRILL
- SMALL LENGTH OF STRING

INSTRUCTIONS

1

TO CREATE THE REED, FIRST IRON THE TIP OF A SMALL DRINKING STRAW TO FLATTEN IT'S EDGES.

2

CUT THE TIP TO A POINT BY REMOVING TWO RIGHT ANGLE TRIANGLES FROM THE IRONED EDGES. GIVE THE STRAW A TEST BLOW TO ENSURE THAT THE REED CREATES A SUITABLE NOISE.

3

TAKE A PIECE OF THIN BAMBOO. CUT IT AN INCH ABOVE AND BELOW THE FIBROUS MEMBRANE WHICH DIVIDES EACH SECTION.

4

DRILL OUT THE MEMBRANE AND INSERT A METAL ROD TO CLEAR THE PIPE OF ALL DEBRIS.

5

CUT YOUR REED TO A TWO INCH LENGTH, AND INSERT IT INTO THE PIPE. IF IT IS NOT 100% SNUG, THEN WRAP SOME THREAD AROUND IT TO ENSURE THAT IT MAKES AN AIRTIGHT SEAL WITH THE BAMBOO.

6

DRILL 5/6 FINGER HOLES AT THE END OF THE PIPE. YOUR AULOS SHOULD NOW BE READY TO MAKE 'BEAUTIFUL' MUSIC WITH!

⚡ SUPERCHARGE IT!

MAKE TWO INSTRUMENTS AND PLAY THEM SIMULTANEOUSLY IN THE TRADITIONAL GREEK MANNER.