



The Great Highland Bagpipe

BAGPIPE HONOUR

BUC E-HONOURS



Welcome!

1) The History of the Bagpipe

2) Components & Functions of
the parts of the Bagpipe

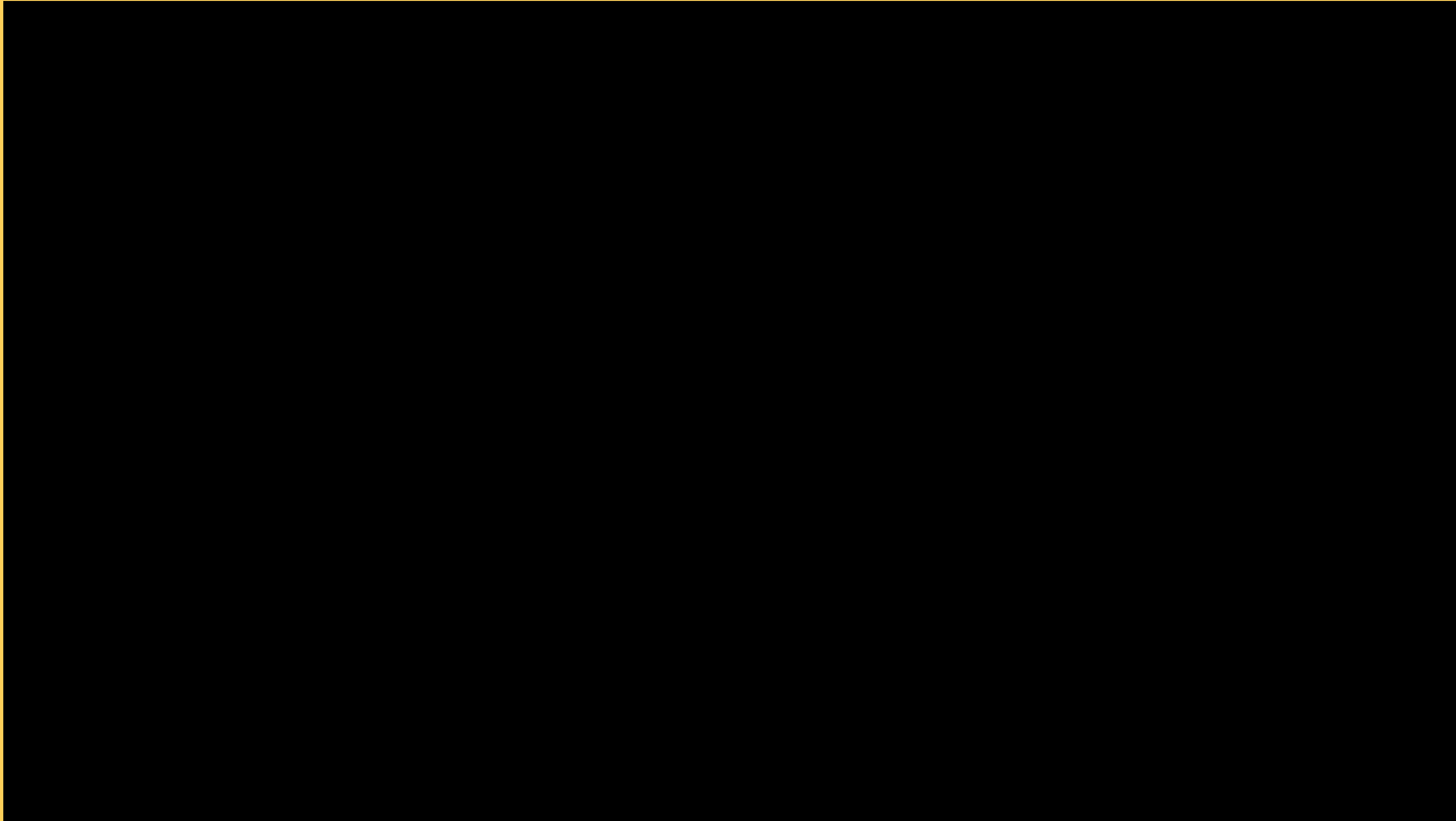
3) General Knowledge

**PRIMARY
REQUIREMENTS**

Bagpipe Performance Video

**PIPE MAJOR
DONALD
MACKENZIE**

Bagpipe Performance Video



**EDINBURGH
MILITARY
TATTOO**

THE BAGPIPE IN THE BIBLE

"Reed-Pipe"

"after that, you are to come to the hill of the God, where the garrison of the Philistines is. And it will occur as you come into the city, that you are going to meet a group of prophets coming down from the high place, harp and frame-drum and **reed-pipe** and lyre before them, and they will be prophesying"

-1 Samuel 10:5

**THE BAGPIPE
IN THE BIBLE**

Possibly a type of woodwind instrument of the double-reed category. Due to the **exciting flavor** and timbre of the instrument and its distinctive modes, **the reed-pipe was a popular instrument of the people and was used extensively in celebrations. Its unique ability to transmit emotion** also made it a staple sound at funerals where it could emulate the plaintive wailing and sorrow of the mourners. Most likely a direct cousin of the the Arabic mizmar still in use today in conjunction with traditional dance and celebrations.

Where it is mentioned in the Bible: 1 Samuel 10:5; 1 Kings 1:40; Isaiah 30:29; Psalm 150:4.

THE BAGPIPE IN THE BIBLE

INTRO TO THE GREAT HIGHLAND BAGPIPES

THE OFFICIAL NAME:

The Great Highland Bagpipes or "The Piob Mhor"

and has been around for 175 years in its modern form

THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE BASIC INSTRUMENT:

- 1: The air supply
- 2: A bag with a chanter
- 3: One or more drones

INTRO TO THE GREAT HIGHLAND BAGPIPES

COMPONENTS & FUNCTIONS:

The Air Supply & Bag: Supplying air to the bag is by blowing with the mouth through the chanter. The bag, commonly made from animal skin, is simply an airtight reservoir to hold the air and regulate its flow, thus allowing the piper to breathe and maintain a continuous sound, both at the same time.

The Chanter: The chanter is the melody pipe made of wood, played with two hands. Generally comprising two or more sliding parts, the drone allows the pitch of the pipes to be altered.

INTRO TO THE GREAT HIGHLAND BAGPIPES

COMPONENTS & FUNCTIONS:

The Reeds: Reeds are the constant in pipe production since the earliest known versions. Today, it is used to make both single and double reeds. Plastics, metals, and brass are source materials for reeds.

The Drones: Sometimes 2-3 drones are used, but 3 are the most common. There is a bass drone (the longer drone) and 1-2 tenor drones (shorter ones). All drones are made of natural wood or bamboo, and the pieces on the drones are joined together with metallic, ivory or plastic rings called ferrules.

THE PÌOB MHOR

THE HISTORY OF THE BAGPIPE

How bagpipes arrived in Scotland is somewhat of a mystery.

Some historians believe that bagpipes originate from ancient Egypt and were brought to Scotland by invading Roman Legions.

Ancient Egypt does appear to have prior claim to the instrument however; from as early as **400 BC the 'pipers of Thebes' are reported to have been blowing pipes made from dog skin with chanters of bone.** And several hundred years later, one of the most famous exponents of the pipes is said to have been the great Roman Emperor Nero, who may well have been piping rather than fiddling whilst Rome burned.

THE PIOB MHOR

THE HISTORY OF THE BAGPIPE

What is certain however is that bagpipes have existed in various forms in many places around the world. In each country the construction of the basic instrument comprises the same component parts; an air supply, a bag with a chanter and one or more drones.

Whilst historians can only speculate on the actual origins of the piob mhor, or The Great Highland bagpipe, it was the **Scottish Highlanders themselves that developed the instrument to its current form,** establishing it as their national musical instrument both in times of war and peace.

INSTRUMENT FOR PEACE AND WAR

As a musical instrument of war, the **first mention of the bagpipes appears to date from 1549 at the Battle of Pinkie**, when the pipes replaced trumpets to help inspire the Highlanders into battle. It is said that the shrill and penetrating sound worked well in the roar of battle and that **the pipes could be heard at distances of up to 10 miles away.**

INSTRUMENT FOR PEACE AND WAR

Due to their inspirational influence, bagpipes were classified as instruments of war during **the Highland uprisings of the early 1700s**, and following the defeat of Bonnie Prince Charlie at the Battle of Culloden in 1746, **the government in London attempted to crush the rebellious clan system. An Act of Parliament was passed which made the carrying of weapons, such as those vicious bagpipes, and the wearing of kilts a penal offence.**

The Great Highland Bagpipe









ORNAMENTATION OF THE BAG

ORNAMENTATION IN THE PAST:

Ornamentation on bag-pipes may have experienced the greatest changes because of **concern for preservation of endangered species**. In the 1700s, **ivory from elephants, walruses, and narwhals was the most common material for ornamentation**, because it can be worked and turned into beautiful artwork. Animal horn was also a source.

ORNAMENTATION OF THE BAG

ORNAMENTATION IN THE PRESENT:

Today, **antlers from elk and moose are commonly used as is imitation ivory.** Celluloid was an early man-made material to be carved for decoration, but plastics are generally worked now.

The bagpipe maker purchases wood and antler in log form. Plastic is supplied in sheets or rods, and metal for ferrules (bands that are put around the shafts of the pipes to support and strengthen them and caps that protect the pipe ends) is received as metal tubing or castings and may consist of aluminum, brass, nickel, or sterling silver.

THE AFRICAN BLACKWOOD BAGPIPE (THE BAG):

The **valve keeps the air that is blown into the bag by the piper from returning back out of the blowpipe.**

Bagpipers press harder on the bag while taking a breath to maintain the same internal air pressure which helps the sound from wavering.

Sheepskin bags (most popular) are also used (good for those pipers needing excessive moisture to escape the bag quickly), as well as **Gortex bags** and **hybrid bags** (hide outside with synthetic inside). Sometimes bags can even be made of **kangaroo hide bags!**

THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE BAGPIPE



SHEEPSKIN BAGPIPE BAGS



GORTEX BAGPIPE BAGS



AFRICAN BLACKWOOD



**AFRICAN
BLACKWOOD**

THE DRONE REED:

Traditionally the drone reed would be made of natural cane which would resemble bamboo. There are three drone reeds used in a set of bagpipes: two tenor drone reeds, and a larger bass drone reed.

The chanter reed is double reed (two matching pieces secured together) made of Spanish cane. This reed is critical since the melody for a musical piece ("tune") is played on the chanter. If a drone reed fails, the music can go on, but not so for a chanter reed.

THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE BAGPIPE



**DRONE
CANE & REEDS**



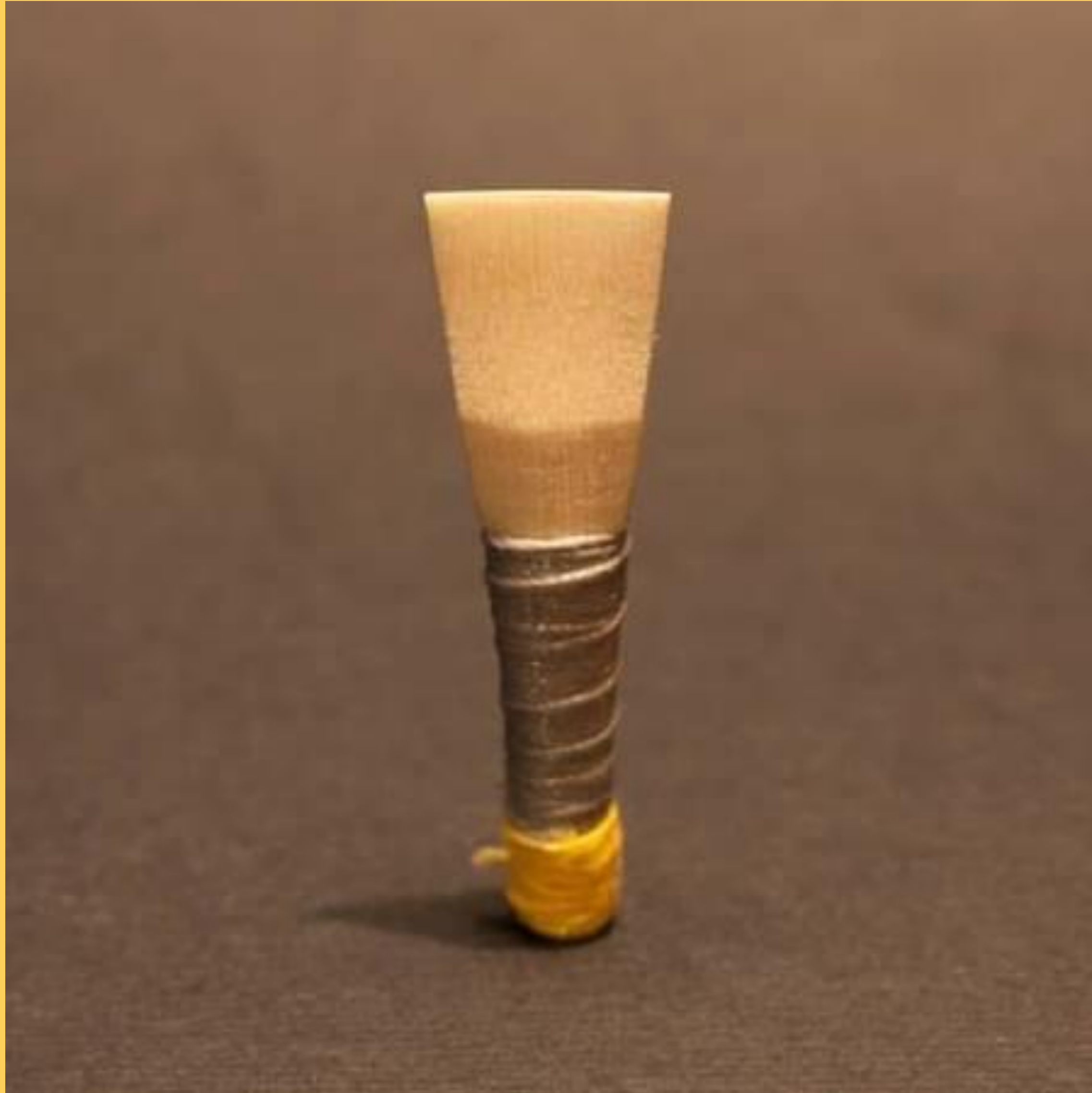
SPANISH REED STALKS



SPANISH REEDS



DIFFERENT TYPES REEDS



SPANISH REEDS



HEMP THREAD



THREAD WAX

FERRULES RINGS

There are **ferrules which are rings** found around the various connection points on a set of bagpipes and can be made out of metal, plastic, ivory or horn, and sometimes even palm nut.

Ferrules provide additional support to the wood at stress points and help prevent splitting.

The **bagpipe drones, stocks and chanters are most commonly made out of bamboo cane & African Blackwood**, an oily dense wood commonly used for musical instruments.

Bagpipes are also made out of ebony (though fallen into disuse due to propensity for cracking), cocobolo, and sometimes other hard woods.

Since the latter 20th Century, bagpipes have also been made out of plastic.

THE FERRULE RINGS



A



C



D



B



G



E



F

**A Few of Many J. Dunbar Ltd. Ferrules
Alloy, Brass, Nickle, Silver Imitation Ivory (Delrin)
Hand & Machine Engraving**

FERRULE RING TYPES



FERRULE RING TYPES



TURNING OF METAL FERRULE RINGS

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