

Blue Bear Flutes

How to assemble our Western Cedar Native American Flute Kit

Thank you for your taking this opportunity to learn to make a Native American Flute! This kit is designed to be a simple way to create your own Native American 5 Hole Flute. We have many videos on YouTube to assist with this process that range from the very simple to much more advanced flute making techniques. The video specifically for this kit's assembly can be found here: <http://youtu.be/Ec8K0neROB8>. I know you will love the experience of making your own flute and find it challenging as well as fun.

Charlie Mato-Toyela
Blue Bear Flutes

Instructions

When you receive your flute kit, it should look something like this:



(It may be a different type of sandpaper)

(Air Chamber)



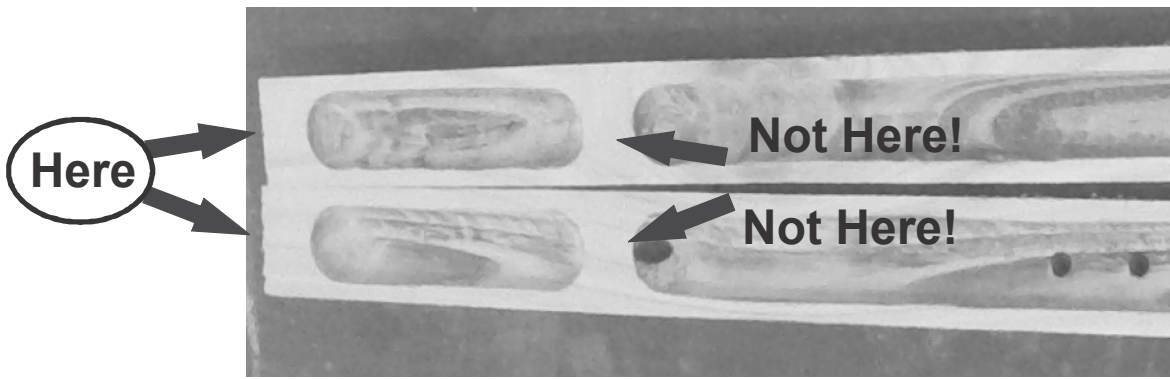
(Main Chambers)

Step 1

Carefully untie everything and save your leather lace holding it all together for tying your block on and for any use as decoration. Set your 2 pieces of sandpaper aside and make note one is a little more rougher than the other. This piece of sandpaper will be used most, while the other is only for finishing.

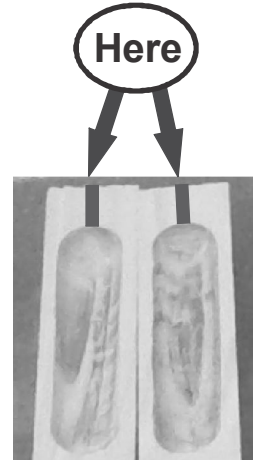
Step 2

Roll up your coarse/rougher sandpaper to the shape of a tube. The size should fit inside of one of the flute's main chambers tightly. Very carefully sand back and forth through this chamber to remove any "burs" or loose wood fiber inside of the flute. Very carefully sand as much as you can from the inside of the air chambers as well.



Step 3

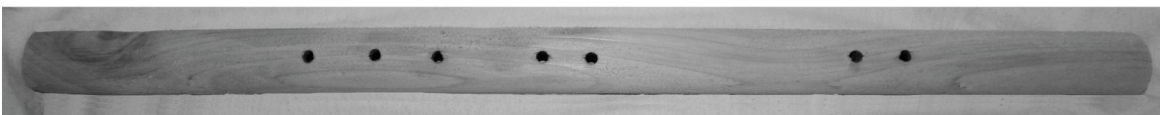
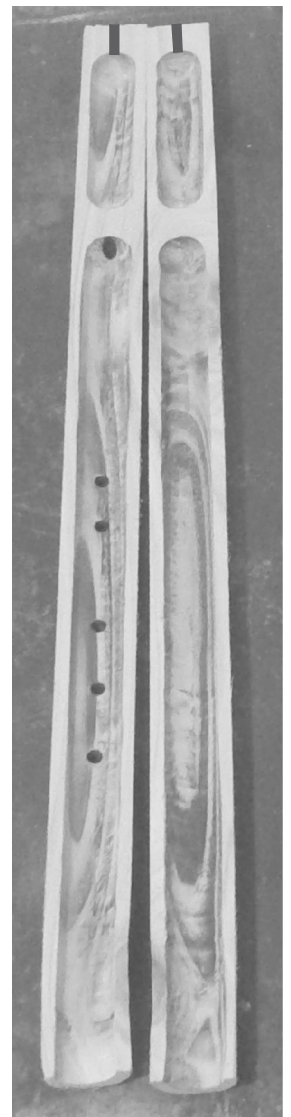
Next, with the 2 pieces of wood laying side-by-side, very carefully create a “channel” on both pieces where the mouthpiece is going to be. One of the easiest ways to achieve this is by folding your coarse sandpaper in half, crease the paper and use the creased area to “saw” into the flute. The channel should be slightly smaller than a writing pencil (about the same diameter when the two halves are put together as the holes in this flute).



Step 4

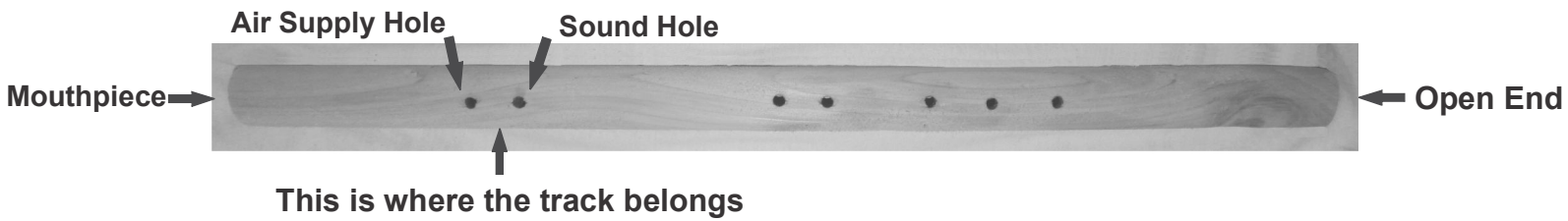
Glueing and tying... This is a pretty easy step, just be patient and take your time! Be sure to watch our YouTube Native American Flute Kit Assembly Video if you have any doubt on what to do. Any type of glue that is water-based or considered “safe” like school glue, Elmer’s, Tight Bond, Gorila’s **wood glue**, or hide glue made from gelatin will do. You basically need to glue all surfaces on one half of the flute, being careful not to get glue into the mouthpiece channel you just created. Also, do not use so much glue that it fills the air or sound chambers as this will make playing the flute difficult and will lengthen drying time! :)

Next, put the two halves together and tie them securely with a “stretchy” type of cord or leather or even use rubber bands to hold them tight. Do not tie with a cord that will cut into the soft wood, as this will make more work for sanding later on. I suggest allowing to dry for 24 hours or per the drying time of your glue’s instructions or as your experience teaches!



Step 5

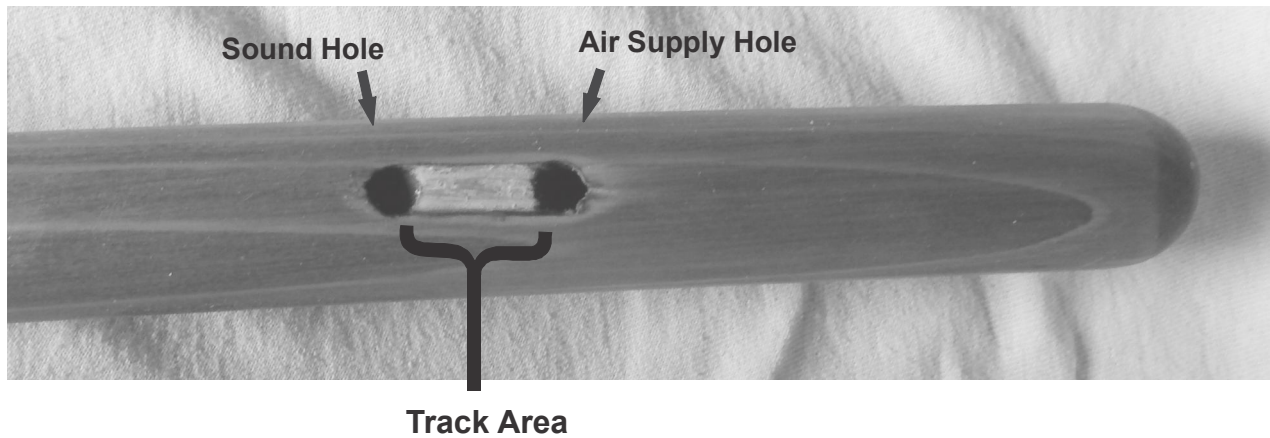
When you remove all of the ties, your flute should resemble something similar to the one above. Now it is time to really put those pieces of sand paper to good use! First using the coarse sandpaper, place the paper in your hand and sand the flute by cupping your hand around it firmly and pulling the flute through it while slightly twisting. When you get to the end of that movement, push the flute back through the sandpaper and pull it back out while twisting in a different direction... make it as smooth as possible! Now you are ready to use the other sandpaper to do the same thing! The flute needs to be nice and smooth, however it does not need to be too thin, so Be careful!



Step 6

The track area is the trickiest part of flute making. We have several videos specifically on how to do this, though it is not really that difficult to do. There are several techniques to create this track, and the simplest is probably with the sand paper you already have.

Make a little "V" shape with either sheet of sandpaper and hold it above the point of the paper with one hand while you press the point of the "V" in with your fingers on the other hand. You want it "pointy" but not too pointy. The sandpaper should then look similar to this:



Finished!

Keep in mind, though your sandpaper has been made into the shape of a "V" with a "flat point" on the bottom, the track area of the flute must be as flat as possible. It needs to be about 1/32 to 3/32 of an inch deep. A good rule of thumb is to make it about 4 times the thickness for a sheet of paper at first and place your block onto it covering the air supply hole and not the sound hole. You can slide the block away from the sound hole towards the top of the mouthpiece just a little to see if it is producing sound. If it does not, the track may need to be *slightly* deeper. Careful not to make it too deep, as it could attribute to other issues later. For additional care and troubleshooting steps please see our YouTube channel: [youtube.com/bluebeararts](https://www.youtube.com/bluebeararts)



← Mouthpiece End

