Even five years ago, techs that were facing flute tone holes were usually close mouthed and leveling when no one was around. Now with most facing the tone holes on student models and up, we have finally found that with twenty minutes of facing we save untold time in padding. The pad coverage is better and lasts longer. These tools, after leveling the tone hole, can be used to remove the burrs left on the outer and inner edges of the tone hole as well as rounding the face of the tone hole. These tools were designed by a respected pad and flute maker as well as a flute technician and have been reproduced with his permission. The complete set of tools covers tone holes of all major and minor brands of flutes.

In the set you will receive one tool to check the tone hole to see if it is level. Another tool, that is the same, is used to level the tone hole with abrasive paper attached. I will usually start with 400 grit. The paper can be attached with contact cement as well as a spray adhesive. Remember to remove the paper as soon as you are done facing the tone holes.

The black pilot should fit the inside diameter of the tone hole. Draw a circle on 400 grit using the selected facer, use a hole punch in the center of the disc of 400 grit and cut the disc from the center hole to the outside edge of the disc. Or you can cut an oversize square piece of emery paper and trim the edges of the paper on the cutter. A hole will have to made from the center hole to the outside of the emery paper. This will allow the paper to form to the inside of the facer. Excess abrasive paper can be cut off at the edge of the taper. Lay the disc on top of the facer, insert the pilot with screw through the disc and tighten the screw into facer. The disc must fit into the facer with out any over lapping edges of paper. Insert pilot and facer and twist back and forth. This will dress the outside edges of the tone hole and also start rounding the edges. Check the work, then move to a 600 grit disc, then some go to 800, then to 1200, the finishing grit will be determined by what type of tone hole finish is desired.

Now the inside must be finished. Use the inside finisher with a cut disc, it needs to be contact cemented to the pointed taper side. It may be necessary to go between these tools several times to achieve your desired results. For the interior-facing tool, contact cement the emery paper and cut as with the exterior facer.

Don’t choose too large a facer diameter for the tone hole. The wet-dry paper will scratch the body between the tone holes. Rolled tone holes have more metal then you think, but check them closely, magnifiers are a great tool for this work. Keep the pilots edges clean of grit. Remove the contact cemented disc from the inside facer as soon as you are done. Believe me it is almost impossible to clean the tool face. Check all tool facings for chips in the metal.

The set of facers have been supplied with a generic set of pilots. Other pilot sets are available upon request.

Enjoy,