One of the key factors in determining the tonal quality, responsiveness and overall performance of flute headjoints is the interior taper. The JLS Headjoint Story Stick is a great tool for analyzing interior dimensions and the best way to measure and compare bore shapes.

**Instructions:**

1. Begin by removing the headcork assembly from the headjoint.

2. Locate the incrementally graduated gauge discs stored on the end-pin of the Story Stick.

3. Remove the retaining cap and the largest gauge disc.

4. Mount the gauge disc on the opposite end (insertion end) of the tool by gently pressing it into place.

5. Hold the Story Stick with your thumb and forefinger to avoid applying excessive pressure while inserting into the headjoint. Gently insert from the tenon end to the point at which the disc stops.

6. Mark the Story Stick with a fine pencil line at the tenon end. (Pencil marks are easily cleaned off afterward using a mild citrus-based cleanser.)

7. Measure the disc with a dial caliper and write the dimension of the disc next to the corresponding pencil mark. Repeat this process with each disc, proceeding from largest to smallest. Depending on the headjoint design, the smallest discs are sometimes smaller than the crown end of the head.
9. Once you have the stick marked, you can measure and record the distances and put them in a spreadsheet file for safekeeping. Measurements can be made with a mechanical ruler.

10. It is also good practice to mark the mid point of the emboucher hole, as well as the bore size at this point. If you’re not certain where the mid point is, measure the distance to the North and South walls then divide by two for the center point.

11. When storing the gauge discs note that the disc retainer cap is tapered. The side with the ring faces inward toward the rod.