

2.06 Geoff Wooff's Pipe-making : a photographic project.

By Peter Laban

During a six-week period in May and June 1998 I photographed Geoff Wooff in his workshop at Cloghanmore, Miltown Malbay, co Clare while making a full set in C for Máire ní Ghráda. The resulting body of photographs will serve as a visual record of Geoff's method and approach to pipe making.

Although this project does not pretend to be a highly detailed technical documentation, it does provide an insight into his use of tools and techniques. Some will be surprised to see him make regulator keys using a hacksaw. Using a file turning wood in the lathe is a departure from classic turning methods that may also raise some eyebrows.

The photographs cover most aspects of the woodwork, metalwork, bag making, reed-making, tuning and voicing. All photographs were taken on 35mm black & white film using the available light, hoping to create a minimum of intrusion while Geoff was working.

A selection of twenty photographs from the project is presented here. It is hoped a more extensive, printed publication of the material can be realised in the future.

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| Photo 01 | Checking the size of the main-stock. |
| Photo 02 | Polishing the main-stock. |
| Photo 03 | Boring. |
| Photo 04 | Turning the blocks on the chanter, using a file. |
| Photo 05 | Cutting the blocks to size. |
| Photo 06 | Smoothing the surface after cutting excess wood off the blocks. |
| Photo 07 | Checking 'the feel' of the chanter. |
| Photo 08 | Cutting key slots in the chanter. |
| Photo 09 | Cutting a regulator key from a sheet of nickel silver, using a hacksaw. |
| Photo 10 | Drilling a hole in the regulator key to fit spring. |
| Photo 11 | Rolling a ferrule from sheet-metal. |
| Photo 12 | Pouring lead into tube before bending. |
| Photo 13 | Bending lead-filled tube into shape. |
| Photo 14 | Making the bag. |
| Photo 15 | Trimming the bag. |
| Photo 16 | Nailing the leather to the bellows. |
| Photo 17 | Sanding the reed. |
| Photo 18 | Nearly finished reeds. |
| Photo 19 | Tuning and voicing the F hole of the chanter. |
| Photo 20 | Finished. The pipes waiting to be picked up. |