THE ANCIENT HOBBYIST

AULOS

An Aulos is a Greek reed instrument consisting of a cylindrical or slightly conical tube generally about 50 cm long. Primitive examples were of reed or bone, but wood and ivory became common. The aulos accompanied a wide range of Greek activities: it was present at sacrifices, dramatics and even wrestling matches, the discus throw & sailor’s dances on triremes. Plato associates it with the ecstatic cults of Dionysus and the Kyriesanies. In his writings, Plato even banned the aulos from his Republic.

MATERIALS

- LENGTH OF BAMBOO
- SMALL HANDSAW
- 1 DRINKING STRAW
- CLOTHES IRON
- DRILL
- SMALL LENGTH OF STRING

INSTRUCTIONS

1. TO CREATE THE REED, FIRST IRON THE TIP OF A SMALL DRINKING STRAW TO FLATTEN IT’S EDGES.

2. CUT THE TIP TO A POINT BY REMOVING TWO RIGHT ANGLE TRIANGLES FROM THE IRONED EDGES. GIVE THE STRAW A TEST BLOW TO ENSURE THAT THE REED MAKES A SUITABLE NOISE.

3. TAKE A PIECE OF THIN BAMBOO, CUT IT AN INCH ABOVE AND BELOW THE FIBROUS MEMBRANE WHICH DIVIDES EACH SECTION.

4. DRILL OUT THE MEMBRANE AND INSERT A METAL ROD TO CLEAR THE PIPE OF ALL DEBRIS.

5. CUT YOUR REED TO A TWO INCH LENGTH, AND INSERT IT INTO THE PIPE. IF IT IS NOT 100% SNUG, THEN WRAP SOME THREAD AROUND IT TO ENSURE THAT IT MAKES AN AIRTIGHT SEAL WITH THE BAMBOO.

6. DRILL 5 X FINGER HOLES AT THE END OF THE PIPE. YOUR AULOS SHOULD NOW BE READY TO MAKE ‘BEAUTIFUL’ MUSIC WITH!!

SUPERCHARGE IT!

MAKE TWO INSTRUMENTS AND PLAY THEM SIMULTANEOUSLY IN THE TRADITIONAL GREEK MANNER.

ANCIENT DISCOVERIES