***Lesson 59: Hemping In-Depth***

Materials

* Bagpipes
* Black or Yellow Waxed hemp

Lesson Summary

* Hemping your bagpipes is the most commonly performed maintenance task you will perform
* Hemping is important for maintaining airtight joints all along your pipes, and joints that aren’t so loose that pieces will slide around or come out of the stocks unexpectedly
* DO NOT use unwaxed hemp to hemp your pipes, as the unwaxed hemp will absorb moisture and expand while playing and potentially become so tight you can't move the joint or can even cause cracking in the wood of your pipes due to the constant dramatic shifts in tightness
* Instead, use either black or yellow waxed hemp. Try to keep the color you use consistent across the parts of your instrument as this is more aesthetically pleasing. There is no advantage to using black or yellow hemp otherwise.

The rest of this lesson is best explained with the video, please follow the steps as shown in the video to hemp your pipes. Hemping should be done regularly in cases where joints are coming loose or sliding too easily and helps maintain airtightness, which goes a long way when you are learning the pipes for the first time and already struggling to keep air pressure steady.