

Tonguing problems are not always black and white because people have different size tongues. Some teachers teach the same way to everyone, insisting that their way is the only correct way. Unfortunately that doesn't work for a good number of people. So, you have to experiment. I advocate arching the tongue in back so it is near or touching the upper molars. Then bring the front of your tongue as close to the tip of the reed as you can and as close to the tip of your tongue as you can. As you means it will be different for many people, it could be close to the tip or even a bit further back. If your tongue is on the longer side, as mine is, you will actually come up from under the reed and stroke the reed from below instead of at a straight angle as so many insist you do. Basically you have to experiment to find what works best for you. A really good teacher will not only encourage you to do this but will give you ideas on the angle and tongue position to achieve your maximum goal. It's a shame that there are so many, including some very fine teachers, that insist all their students tongue the same way they do, mostly because it came natural to them and they have no concept of how else to tongue. The secret is to use a light stroke with as little movement as possible without blocking the air passage or choking in your throat. Experiment! ESP