FLUITENBOUW, handleiding voor het maken van houtblaasinstrumenten

In August 2008 I have published my book FLUITENBOUW, handleiding voor het maken van houtblaasinstrumenten. It is written in Dutch language and in a Dutch setting, which means that (for instance) I have given addresses of some firms in The Netherlands where you can buy wood or tools. I have also referred to publications in De Bouwbrief, the periodical of the Bouwerskontakt, the society of woodwind makers in The Netherlands, and other Dutch publications.

For non-Dutch people who are interested in the contents of my ‘handleiding’ (manual) I have translated the title page and the greater part of the table of contents.

Jan Bouterse

WOODWIND MAKING: manual for making recorders, traversos and baroque oboes
- basic techniques of woodwind making - from simple experiments to full instructions for making copies of historical instruments - detailed information about voicing, tuning and scaling instruments - over 30 drawings with measurements of interesting instruments from renaissance and baroque.


About the contents
In my dissertation from 2001 (of which the English translation, Dutch woodwind instruments and their makers, 1660-1760, is published in 2005 by the KVNM in Utrecht) the results can be found of my scientific research into historic woodwind instruments. The new manual is a much more practical book, in which I have combined the experiences of the above mentioned research with those of making copies of the instruments.

The first chapters of the manual contain information about the technical aspects of woodworking (drilling, reaming, turning, making your own tools), and introductions in measuring techniques and acoustics. In the three instrument chapters (about traversos, recorders and baroque oboes) I have given - in a more or less chronological order - my experiences of making copies (from Dutch, German, French and English originals), but also of making simple instruments and experiments, such as scaling the instruments to other pitches. Many illustrations (the photos are in black & white), graphs and tables give additional information about such items as making windways (for recorders), keys, undercutting fingerholes, fingering tables, tuning instructions, schemes of nodes and antinodes of the sound waves of the various tones, and so on.

I have given drawings with measurements of over 30 historical instruments, many of them from private collections and not published before. I have given summarized data of some instruments of which excellent drawings and measurements have been published (such as from the collections of Frans Brüggen and the Gemeentemuseum in Den Haag). Of some of these instruments I have given information of the copies, such as where I made some changes to improve the intonation and other aspects. But I have also written about my difficulties with some instruments, where I had beginners’ luck or where I have made mistakes and didn't have success in making a copy: just such mistakes give valuable information for the readers, whether they are beginning with woodwind making or more experienced.

With the drawings and measurements in the manual, the reader might have enough information to make copies with very good qualities. However, I always give the recommendation that each woodwind maker should visit the collections to see (and measuring and playing, if possible) the instruments him- or herself. It is also good to consult the information in the catalogues (such as from the Gemeentemuseum in Den Haag) and my dissertation (in which are many colour photos). To order the dissertation, visit the website www.kvnm.nl, go to ‘Catalogue’ (2x), scrolling down to the page ‘Bouwstenen’, and their to BN9.

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send me a mail if you want to to order the manual.
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2.2- Making drawings; - introduction; - drawing with pen or pencil; drawing using the computer; about graphs of the bores of woodwind instruments

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- PVC-traverso in b/g, Schweizer Pfeif in d2: own design
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- R. Wijne, traverso in d1: Gemeentemuseum Den Haag (Ea 11-1935)
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- Van Heerde, traverso in d1 (ebony): private collection in The Netherlands
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- Van Heerde, traverso in d1 (boxwood): private collection in The Netherlands
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- Godfroid Adrien Rottenburgh, traverso in d1, collection Barthold Kuyken (Belgium)
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Steenbergen, alto recorder in f1 (a=410 Hz), collection Frans Brüggen
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W. Beukers, soprano recorder in c2, private collection (ex-Vellekoop)
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Soprano recorder in f2 in a=415 Hz, after a copy by Alec Loretto
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Stanesby Junior: alto recorder in f1, a=415 Hz, private collection USA
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H. Richters, oboe in boxwood, Gemeentemuseum Den Haag (Ea 1-x-1996)
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J. Steenbergen, oboe in ebony with ivor rings, private collection Japan
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Van Heerde, oboe in boxwood, Musik Museet, Stockholm (No. 152)
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J. Denner, oboe in boxwood, private collection (ex Willy Burger, Zürich)
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R. Haka, short oboe (a=440 Hz possible), Musik Museet, Stockholm (No. 155)
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