

## Bagpipes

- What are Bagpipes ?
- Are Bagpipes Irish or Scottish ?
- What makes a bagpipe a bagpipe ?
- Air Supply
- Pipe Bag
- Drone
- Chanter
- What Countries have Bagpipes ?
- How old are the bagpipes ?

### What are Bagpipes ?

**Bagpipes** are a class of musical instrument, aerophones using enclosed reeds fed from a constant reservoir of air in the form of a bag.

An **aerophone** is any musical instrument which produces sound primarily by causing a body of air to vibrate, without the use of strings or membranes, and without the vibration of the instrument itself adding considerably to the sound.



### Are Bagpipes Irish or Scottish ?

Though the **Scottish Great Highland Bagpipe** and **Irish uilleann pipes** have the greatest

Bagpipes

international visibility, bagpipes have historically been found throughout Europe, and into Northern Africa, the Persian Gulf, and the Caucasus.



**What makes a bagpipe a bagpipe ?**

Bagpipes

A bagpipe minimally consists of an air supply, a bag, a chanter, and usually a drone.



Most bagpipes also have additional drones (and sometimes chanters) in various combinations, held in place in stocks—connectors with which the various pipes are attached to the bag.

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### **Air Supply**

The most common method of supplying air to the bag is by blowing into a blowpipe, or blowstick.

The use of a bellows to supply air appears to have originated sometime during 16th or 17th centuries . Several types of bagpipes use bellows, with the Irish uilleann pipes, Northumbrian smallpipes from Britain, and the Musette de cour in France are the most well known.

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## Pipe Bag

The **bag** is an airtight reservoir which can hold air and regulate its flow while the player breathes or pumps with a bellows, enabling the player to maintain continuous sound for some time.

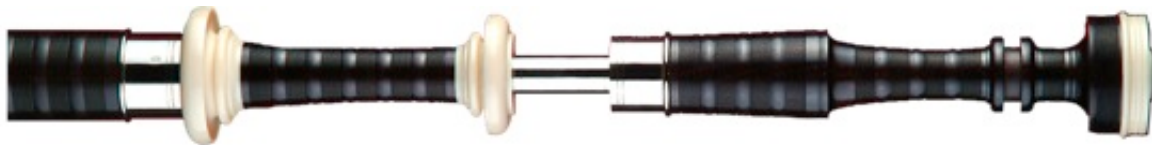
Manmade materials such as Gore-Tex are used for constructing bags but before this luxury bags were made from local animal hides for bags.



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## Drone

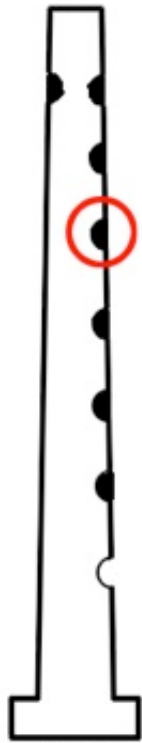
Most bagpipes have at least one drone. A drone is most commonly a cylindrical tube with a single reed, although drones with double reeds exist. The drone is generally designed in two or more parts, with a sliding joint ("bridle") so that the pitch of the drone can be manipulated.



## Chanter

The chanter is the melody pipe, played by one or two hands. A chanter can be bored internally so that the inside walls are parallel for its full length, or it can be bored in the shape of a cone. Additionally, the reed can be a single or a double reed. Single-reeded chanters must be parallel-bored; however, both conical- and parallel-bored chanters operate with double reeds, and double reeds are by far the more common.

Bagpipes



Lift for  
E Gracenote

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### What Countries have Bagpipes ?

Bagpipes can be found in many places around the world. Here is a list of countries that have one or more different types of bagpipes.

Bagpipes

- Austria
- Balkan
- Belgium
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungarian
- Iran
- Ireland
- Italy
- Kuwait
- Malta
- North Africa
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Russia
- Scandinavia and the Baltic
- Spain
- Switzerland
- The Caucasus
- The Netherlands
- Turkey
- Ukraine.
- United Kingdom

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**How old are the bagpipes ?**

## Bagpipes

Evidence of pre-medieval bagpipes is controversial, but several textual and visual clues may possibly indicate ancient forms of bagpipes. A Hittite slab dating from about 1,300 BC at Eyuk depicts a possible representation of a bagpipe.

