

The Border Pipe

Scottish bagpipe from the Borders (part of the Lowlands, Southern Uplands, between Edinburgh and England), known since at least the sixteenth century. *There are two versions :*

Mouth-blown Border Pipe

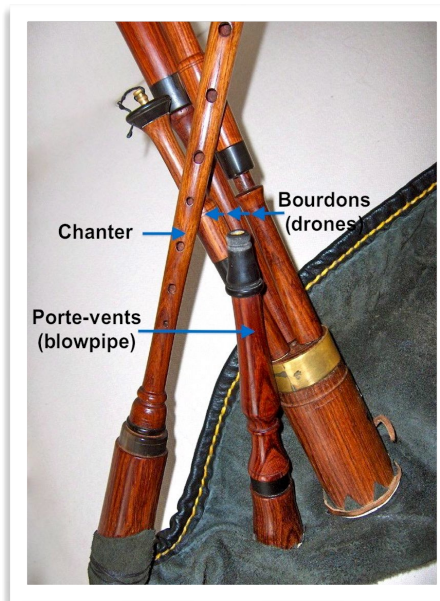
The oldest one with :

- **a blowpipe** (see picture below) to inflate the bag,
- **three drones** like the Great Highland Bagpipe with a bass and two tenors or with a bass, a tenor and a fifth, always set on the same stock,



Three drones : 1 bass, 1 tenor and 1 fifth in E

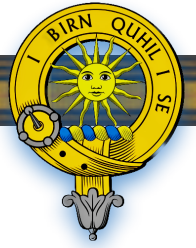
- **a conical bore chanter** (melodic pipe) which allows the Border Pipe to be more powerful than the other small bagpipe from Scotland, the *small pipe*, but definitely sweeter than the Great Highland Bagpipe. It also plays an octave above the small pipe, in the register of *the fiddle* (pop. for violin).



Border Pipes were played on both sides of the border, in the Borders and in the Northumberland, with the same repertoire.

They had almost disappeared in the late twentieth century, when musicians and pipe makers chose to play it again.

The bagpipe is historically tuned in A but the chanter is often chromatic (*all tones and semitones available on the chanter scale*).



The Border Pipe

Bellows-blown Border Pipe

Bellows are fastened to the chest and activated by the elbow to put air into the bag. The other elbow is used to stabilize the pressure inside the bag. With no more blowing needed, the piper can sing or talk with the audience.

This set comes from *Nigel Richard*.

It has one bass drone and two tenors, all tuned in A and a *drone switch* to allow playing in other keys, due to the chromatic chanter:

