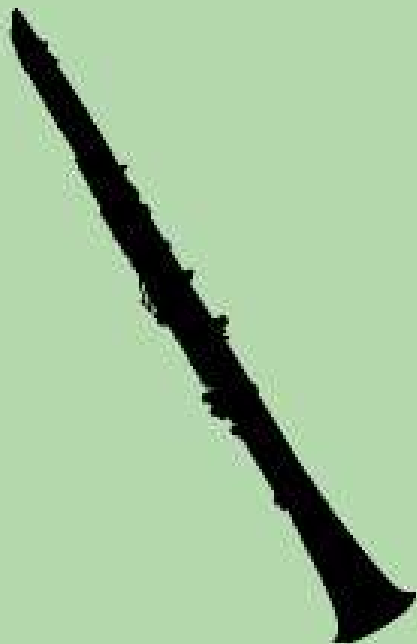
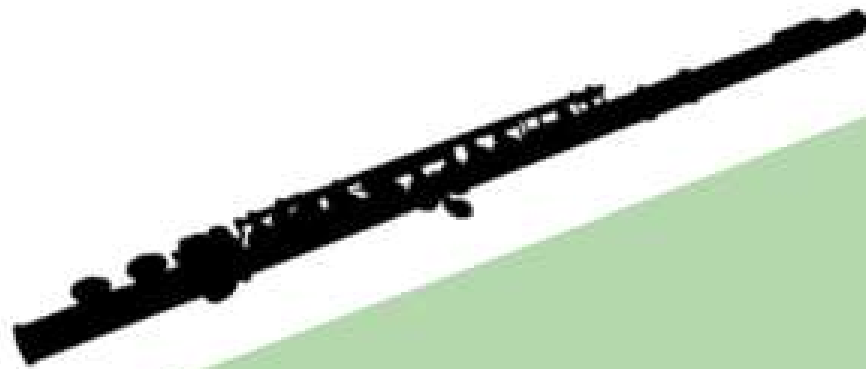


Band Parent's Guide to Woodwinds



Supplies/ Maintenance

Cleaning cloth: A simple cleaning cloth takes off fingerprints and dust.

Cork grease: This is essential for any instrument with cork. It makes sure the instrument pieces together easily, and without damaging the cork. Just rub a little grease on the cork every time the instrument is put together to keep it in good condition.

Reed case: By properly storing reeds, they can last much longer. Cases keep the reeds from warping and some cases have humidifiers to keep reeds from drying out too much during weather changes.

Tuning rod: Used on a flute, this serves 2 purposes: the loop on the end is to thread a cleaning cloth and then pull through the flute pieces to clean them. 2nd, the other end has a notch which is placed into the head joint. if you can see the notch through the hole, and it is centered, then you know the flute is in tune.

Swab: An instrument swab is used to clean the inside of the instrument. It's typically a cloth attached to a weight by a string that is dropped or threaded through the instrument. It's important to swab after every use to dry up any spit.

Mouthpiece brush: This is used along with warm soapy water to scrub the mouthpieces. Clarinet mouthpieces should not be soaked or kept wet for long though because the cork can be damaged.

Pad saver: This is not a cleaning tool. A pad saver is meant to be left inside the instrument when it's in its case, after it's been cleaned and dried.

Bore oil: This is used in wooden wind instruments such as clarinets and oboes. Saliva dries out the wood so bore oil is used to protect the inside of the instrument. Make sure the instrument is clean and dry, then soak a cleaning swab in some bore oil and pull it through both joints and the barrel until there are no dry spots inside the bore. Leave it to dry overnight.

Accessories

Sax end plug: Protects the octave stem from bending and keeps debris out of your sax while in its case.

Soaker cup & clip: A vital piece of equipment for double reed players, it makes sure the reeds are ready for playing and it can clip on to any orchestra stand.

Clarinet/oboe thumb rest: A silicone cover for the metal thumb rest. Makes holding the instrument up much more comfortable.

Sax strap: Distributes the instrument's weight evenly, so there's less strain on your neck and back and your sax actually feels lighter in your hands as a result.

Mouthpiece cushion: This protects your mouthpiece from teeth marks and excessive wear

Lyre: A clamp on a stem that is used to hold the flip folder in a marching band and attaches to the instrument or the player's arm.

Flip folder: Keep music sheets safe from the elements and is easy to flip through.

Flute plugs: Training tool for students moving from a plateau/closed-hole flute to an open-hole flute.

Music stand: A music stand makes your sheet music vertical and easy to see. Otherwise, you have to lean over a table or bed which can lead to back/neck pain and bad posture.

Mouthpieces/ Ligatures

Clarinet and Sax Mouthpiece:

Since there are different kinds of clarinets and saxophones, always make sure you have right mouthpiece for the job!



Clarinet mouthpieces have cork wrapped around the bottom so it can be inserted into the clarinet.

Saxophone mouthpieces don't have cork since they fit over the neck cork of the sax.



Ligature:

This device holds the reed firmly on the mouthpiece while allowing it to vibrate freely which makes the instrument's sound.



Reeds

The strength is the resistance of the reed. The higher the number, the stiffer the reed. Double reeds are labeled from soft to medium to hard, with soft being the low strengths and hard being the stiffer one.

Clarinet and Sax Reeds:

Cane reeds are made of a type of grass that looks like bamboo but is softer.



Synthetic Reeds are made of hollow carbon fibers glued together. They're more expensive but they also tend to last longer because they are not affected by temperature or humidity. However, beginners should start out with cane reeds, as most band directors prefer that.

Bassoon and Oboe Reeds:

Bassoons and oboes use double reeds, which produce sound a little bit differently. They don't need mouthpieces because the two reeds vibrate against each other to produce a tone.

