

## Clarinet Care

Take extra care to prevent exposure to sudden changes in temperature and humidity.

Avoid direct, extended exposure to:

- Sunlight • Heaters • Air Conditioners

Remove all moisture after you have finished playing.



### **Assembling Your Clarinet -**

- Assemble, tune, clean and lubricate your instrument for the first time under the guidance of your teacher.

### **Applying Cork Grease -**

- Applying cork grease to the corks just before assembly promotes an easy, proper fit of clarinet joints.
- Be sure to apply an even coat on all cork joints to provide protection and extend cork life. It is a good idea to wipe off old cork grease before adding new. Joints that fit together easily need the least amount of grease.
- Attach the barrel to the upper joint and the bell to the lower joint.
- Connect upper joint and lower joint with a gentle twisting motion. Pay careful attention to the bridge keys; they can be bent or damaged from careless assembly.
- To move the bridge keys into alignment, hold upper joint keys lightly, making sure the bridge key is up. Align the upper joint bridge key on top of the lower joint bridge key.

### **Placing the Reed on the Mouthpiece -**

- Wet the reed in your mouth or in water for a few minutes before putting it on the mouthpiece.
- Place the reed on the mouthpiece and secure it with the ligature. In the normal playing position, you can just see the tip of the mouthpiece above the reed.

### **Removing the Reed -**

- Remove the reed from the mouthpiece by loosening the ligature and sliding it off.
- Dry the reed with a clean cloth and place it in a reed holder.
- Remove all moisture and dirt from the inside of the mouthpiece by drawing a cleaning swab through it.
- Take care not to scratch the mouthpiece, and always pass the swab through from the tenon cork end. A woodwind mouthpiece brush may be used with warm soapy water when mouthpiece becomes especially dirty.

### **Cleaning the Body -**

- Draw the cleaning swab through each joint and barrel to remove all moisture.
- For daily care, wipe the entire length of the body with a polishing cloth being careful not to apply pressure to the keys.
- Wipe down the keys, taking care not to scratch them or damage the pads.

### **Storing the Instrument -**

- The case should always be used for storing the instrument after playing and for transporting.
- Do not leave your instrument in a car, even for a short period of time.
- Only store your instrument in dry locations with comfortable temperatures.
- Do not put anything in the case that could place pressure on the instrument. To keep your instrument in optimum playing condition, have it cleaned and inspected by a qualified repair technician annually.

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