

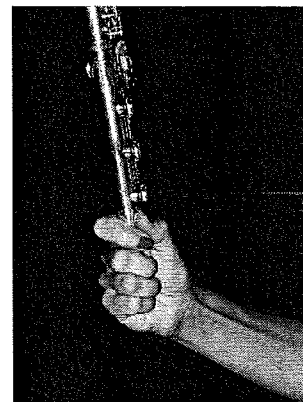
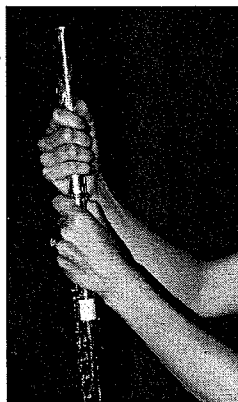
# Flute Maintenance

## Before You Play:

Do not consume sugary candy, gum or sodas. This is the biggest cause of sticky keys.

Always lay your case flat on the floor or on your lap before opening and closing your flute case.

Proper instrument assembly is essential to good care of your flute. Remove your flute from the case by the ends, being careful not to squeeze the rods along the side of the instrument. The keys are delicate and you don't want to bend them.



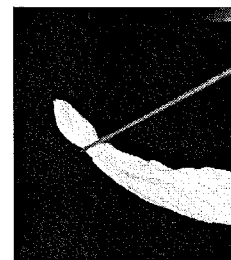
## After You Play:

Always swab out your instrument after playing. Keeping your flute dry is the best thing you can do to take care of it. Listen to your teacher for very specific instructions on how to swab your flute.

Cotton handkerchiefs absorb moisture well. Do not use flannel or felt swabs- they do not absorb moisture but instead, spread it around.

### To remove moisture from your flute:

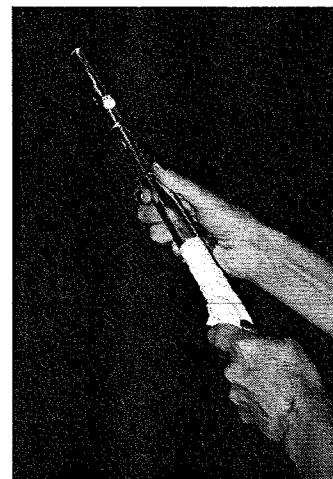
1. Take a corner of your swab pull it through the slit of your cleaning rod. Twist part of the cloth around the top of the rod.



2. Carefully push it through each of the three parts of your flute (head joint, body and foot joint). Twist the rod as you swab, so that the actual rod does not make contact with the inside of your flute.



3. After swabbing, carefully wipe the outside of the flute with a clean, soft cloth to remove any oils or perspiration.



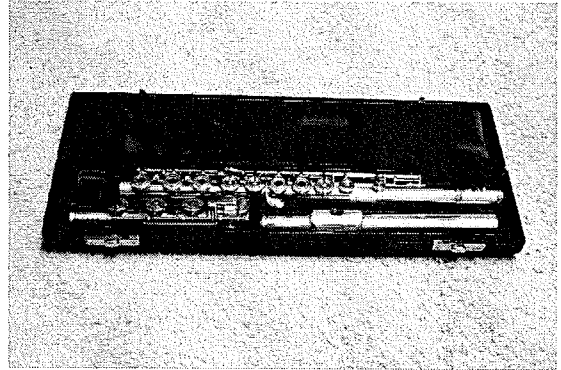
## Storage:

Always leave your flute placed properly in its case when it is not being used. Never leave it on the ground, a chair or a music stand. Always keep it in your hands or in its case.

Never store your flute in extreme hot or cold temperatures. While running errands, never leave your instrument in the car. Extreme temperatures can damage the delicate parts on your instrument.

Do not put music and other items in your case unless there is a space or compartment designed for it. Loose items can damage your instrument.

When carrying your instrument, double check that the latches are closed securely. It is a good idea to carry the LID of the case against your leg.



## Weekly Maintenance:

Wash your swab in warm water and a mild detergent once a week (or at least once a month depending on use). Let it dry completely.

Using a soft, clean cloth, carefully wipe keys one at a time, being careful not to snag any springs.

## Monthly Maintenance:

Always check to make sure that screws at the ends of the rods are not sticking out.

Check rods and keys for dust and dirt. Use a natural bristle brush (water color brush or makeup brush) to carefully remove dirt when needed.

Check to make sure that pads are in good condition and that corks and felt bumpers are in place. If they are missing, you will hear a metal on metal sound when you play your instrument. This should never be heard on an instrument that is playing properly. If this happens, take the instrument to your local music store.

## Annual Maintenance:

If you own your instrument, summer is a great time to take your flute to a local music store for an annual check-up. Yes, musical instruments need "check-ups" too! The store will do minor repairs such as replacing worn pads and tightening loose screws. If you are renting, this maintenance is usually covered in the rental program.

