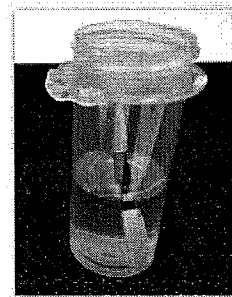


Oboe Maintenance

Before You Play:

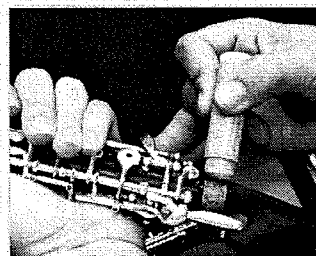
Do not consume sugary candy, gum or sodas.
This is the biggest cause of sticky and waterlogged keys.

Always soak your reed in water prior to assembly.



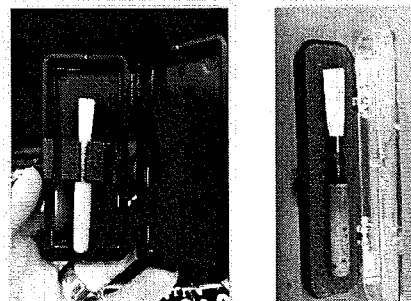
Proper instrument assembly is essential to good care of your oboe.
Be careful not to squeeze the rods along side of the instrument when putting it together.
The keys are delicate and you don't want to bend them.

Use cork grease on the joints of the oboe as needed to insure that assembly is easy. Putting your instrument together should never be a struggle. It is important to use cork grease, especially when the corks are new.



After You Play:

Take your reed off, remove the excess water and store it properly in your reed case. Labeling your reeds by number and rotating which reed you play on daily is recommended.



Swabbing:

Always swab out your instrument after playing. Think of it as "drying" your instrument, not "cleaning" it. Many find that a weighted swab works great. Never use cotton or flannel- they can leave lint residue inside your instrument.



1.) Bell & lower joint- place the swab through the bell end and pull it out through the other side.

2.) Upper joint- drop the weight of the swab in the large end (larger hole) and then pull it through the instrument. The swab should not be pulled all the way out the other end. Run the swab far enough through that the swab captures moisture from the instrument.



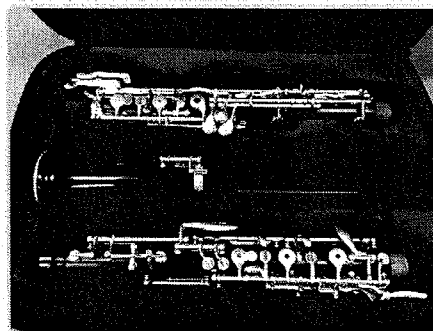
Storage:

Always leave your oboe 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.

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.



Never store your oboe in extreme hot or cold temperatures. While running errands, never leave your instrument in the car. Extreme temperatures can damage the wood, plastic, pads and corks on your oboe.

Weekly Maintenance:

Carefully wipe the keys one at a time and the body of the oboe with a soft clean cloth. Be careful not to snag any springs.

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.

Things to Look For:

Each time you assemble your instrument, check to make sure that screws at the ends of the rods are not sticking out.

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 oboe to your local music store.

Annual Maintenance:

If you own your instrument, summer is a great time to take your oboe 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 or corks. If you are renting, this maintenance is usually covered in the rental program.

