

HOW TO LOOK AFTER YOUR CLARINET...

Clarinet assembly and care tips

- Place the thin end of the reed in your mouth to moisten it while you put your clarinet together.
- Check the corked joints of the clarinet; if they're dry, rub a small amount of cork grease on each.
- With the upper joint in your left palm, use your left-hand fingers to press down the tone hole rings – when you hold the keys down they're less likely to get bent; holding the upper joint keys down also raises the bridge key so it doesn't get bent.
- Grasp the lower joint near the cork without putting pressure on any keys. Line up the tone holes on the two joints and gently twist them together, taking care that the bridge key doesn't catch and bend.
- Gently twist the bell and the barrel into place without putting pressure on any keys.
- Grasp the clarinet at the top so you're gripping the barrel and the upper joint at the same time (without putting pressure on any keys) and gently twist the mouthpiece into place.
- With the ligature already around the mouthpiece, slide the thick end of the reed under the ligature and align the tip of the reed with the tip of the mouthpiece. Tighten the ligature screws to hold the reed firmly in place.



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Clarinet cleaning guide

- Use a **swab** to remove moisture from inside your clarinet's joints and barrel. Drop the weighted end of the string through the clarinet and then pull the wider cloth through to absorb the moisture. The white pads under each key seal the air when you play; moisture causes the pads to get stiff and leak air, making your clarinet harder to play.
- Periodically, you should wash out your swab or replace it with a new one.
- Clean your mouthpiece with a **mouthpiece brush** and warm water.
- Wipe the keys of your clarinet with a **clarinet polish cloth** (liquid polish is not recommended because it can ruin the pads).

