



How to look after your Woodwind Instrument

Instruments covered in this guide:	Flute Clarinet Saxophone	Oboe Cor anglais Bassoon
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We hope you are enjoying playing your new instrument. Below you will find advice on how to care for your instrument and what to do if it breaks.

Do not try to play your instrument before your first lesson, it is very fragile and could get broken.

CARING FOR THE INSTRUMENT

- Always take care when putting the instrument together. Your teacher will show you how – if you forget, look on page 2 of this guide.
- Never leave your instrument next to a radiator, in direct sunlight or in a very cold or damp place.
- Always put the instrument away immediately after you have finished playing it.
- Never leave the instrument assembled on a chair, bed, music stand or anywhere it can get damaged.
- Never force an instrument into its case or force the lid to close, and always make sure the case is properly closed before moving it, otherwise the instrument may fall out.
- Before returning the instrument to its case, use a cleaning cloth/pull-through inside each section to remove any moisture. (Bassoon: Blow through the crook to remove moisture)
- The outside of the instrument can be polished with a duster, being careful to avoid the keys and mechanisms.
- Reeds may need replacing from time to time (not flutes). You will need to buy replacements from a music shop. Your teacher will recommend what gauge to purchase.

Clarinet & Saxophone

- The mouthpiece is the only part of the instrument that will need physically cleaning. After removing the reed, it can be placed upside down in cup of warm water to soak – making sure no water goes on the cork – then cleaned with a small brush.

REPAIRS

For EMS rented instruments	For personally owned instruments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If your instrument stops working properly or you have an accident with it, do not try to repair it yourself. Show your teacher at your next lesson and they will either mend it for you or fill in a repair slip for you to take to EMS with the instrument. This may incur a charge. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If your instrument stops working properly or you have an accident with it, do not try to repair it yourself. Show your teacher at your next lesson and they may be able to mend it for you. They will be able to give you advice on how and where to get it repaired. There are also some ideas on the EMS website.

The EMS website has lots of information regarding the EMS Instrument Hire Scheme, Music Events in Ealing, Ensembles available to join in the borough and advice on practicing.

www.ealingmusicservice.com

Putting your instrument together

Flute

- To put together, line each joint up and then gently twist together. The joints should not be greased.
- Line up the mouth-hole with the keys. Line up the keys on foot joint with the middle joint.
- Take special care when you remove foot joint do not rock it out, just gently twist it away from the flute. If joints get stuck or there are any other problems that the teacher cannot fix, you will need to call the EMS office to arrange for it to be fixed. If the instrument does not fit inside your case, it is vital that you wrap the instrument in a towel to protect it and place it in a secure bag.

Clarinet

- Always take care when putting the instrument together!
- Line up each part of the clarinet, and gently push and twist the middle joints together, making sure that you hold the link key up and that the middle keys do not hit against each other.
- Then push and twist on the bell, the barrel and mouthpiece.
- Finally, put the reed on, attaching it with the ligature.
- Take the clarinet apart in reverse order.

Saxophone

- Take the neck of the saxophone, and push and twist on the mouthpiece.
- Put the reed on, holding it in place with the ligature.
- Next, hold the top of the saxophone, (not the bell) and gently twist the neck on, making sure that you hold the octave key down.
- Tighten the neck screw to keep the neck in place.
- Take the instrument apart in reverse order, making sure that you put the end stopper back into the neck of the saxophone.

Oboe

- Line up each part of the oboe, and gently push and twist the joints together, making sure the middle keys do not hit against each other.
- When putting the bell onto the instrument, ensure that you hold the Bb key down, and make sure the keys are fully aligned before releasing.
- Take the oboe apart in reverse order.

Bassoon

- Take tenor and butt joint, gently placing tenor joint into correct hole
- Next, take long joint, and push into position, ensuring that it is in line correctly
- Secure the two joints with the pin.
- When putting on the bell-joint, hold Bb key down as you push it into place
- When putting the crook on, hold carefully at the bend and gently push and twist into place, so that the thumb key covers the tiny hole in the crook.
- Take the instrument apart in reverse order.