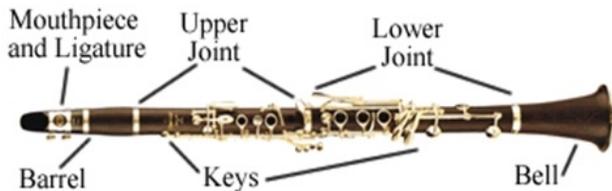


# WINDWORKS

WOODWIND & BRASS REPAIRS, RENTALS, & RETAIL

## Clarinet Care



You've got your clarinet! It's shiny and new and wonderful! Be careful with it, please. Remember that it is a machine with a lot of moving parts, and each one *could* break without proper care. Here's how to take care of it, so it lasts for a long time.

Before you assemble your instrument, put your reed in your mouth to wet it thoroughly. Pick up the bell with your left hand and the lower joint with your right hand, using your fingers to hold shut the big keys near the bottom. Carefully insert the corked part of the lower joint (tenon) into the small end of the bell and rotate it back and forth until it is fully inserted. Now take the upper joint in your left hand and shut the ring key with your fingers. Line up the keys and insert the bottom of the upper joint into the socket of the lower joint with the same back-and-forth twisting motion. Next take the barrel in your right hand and put it on the upper joint. Put the mouthpiece tenon into the barrel.

When your reed is ready, fasten it to the mouthpiece with the ligature, flat side of the reed to the flat side of the mouthpiece. Line up the top of the reed with the top of the mouthpiece. Use a tiny amount of cork grease, only when necessary, to help the corked parts go on the sockets. Too much cork grease attracts dirt and can get on the pads and cause

them to break down and need to be replaced. If your instrument does not go together easily, or the parts are too loose, bring your instrument to the repair shop for refitting.

After each time you play, wipe down the exterior of your clarinet with a soft cloth or treated polishing cloth that is approved by your music store. It's not a good idea to use Brasso, Silvo, or other cleaners on your horn, as they can damage the finish, and cause your keys to get dull and discolored. Use a pad-saver or a swab to wipe down the inside of the instrument. This will help you keep your pads in good condition so your instrument plays well.

Your clarinet case is designed to hold your clarinet and a few small accessories (cork grease, single reeds, a swab) in a pocket in the case. Larger items like music stands, band books, sheet music etc. should go in your backpack or a separate carrying case. Putting books or music on top of your clarinet in its case can damage the keys and keep you from being able to play.

Always keep your clarinet in the case when you are not playing, or on a clarinet stand (not the music stand). That way it will stay safe from being sat on or falling.

Enjoy your new clarinet! Call us at 360-733-5840 if you have any questions about how to take care of it. We are always happy to talk.