



WHANGAPARAOA COLLEGE

CLARINET CARE & MAINTENANCE



Clarinet Assembly

1. Attach the bell to the lower joint.
2. Attach the upper joint to the lower joint. Be careful not to put pressure on any keys.
3. While holding the top of the upper joint, attach the barrel to it by twisting gently.
4. Attach the mouthpiece to the barrel.
5. Attach the reed and ligature to the mouthpiece.

Cleaning the Body and Pads

- Move the swab through each joint and the barrel to remove all moisture. Tenons collect moisture, especially at the upper and lower joints, so moisture should be removed with gauze.
- When drying a pad, insert cleaning paper between it and the tone hole and lightly press down. Then, carefully pull paper away.
- Use a tone hole cleaner to remove build-up of residue in the tone holes.

GENERAL WOODWIND CARE TIPS

- No gum or soft drinks before playing. Sugar mixed with saliva builds up on the pads and causes them to stick, making it difficult to play the instrument.
- Use cork grease as little as possible, but make sure you use it when needed. To apply it properly, you must rub the grease into the cork. Does not use lip balm or Vaseline.
- So moisture does not absorb into the pads, use an absorbent drop swab to clean out the moisture from each section before you place it in the case.

GENERAL WOODWIND CARE TIPS CONT.

- Wipe down the exterior of the instrument with a non-treated cloth to remove fingerprints and residue.
- Do not store the reed on the mouthpiece; store in a reed holder. Reeds can cement themselves to your mouthpiece and collect many germs. As soon as the reed cracks, chips, or softens, it is time to replace it.
- Clean your clarinet or saxophone mouthpiece in warm, soapy water, making sure the reed and ligature have been removed.
- Do not leave a woodwind instrument in a hot car, or in your trunk. Extreme temperatures can damage your instrument.
- Do not set anything on top of your woodwind instrument, whether inside or outside of its case; this includes sheet music! Damage occurs easily when items are set on the instrument and the case is closed. The keys are often bent this way.
- Make sure the case is closed securely. Check all hinges, latches, and handles to ensure they are securely fastened.
- Never use pliers or hammers on your instrument. Improper use of household tools is a common cause of unnecessary damage to instruments.