



Oboe



To keep your instrument in the best possible condition, please consider the following information.

♪ Assembly

♪ Assemble the bell to the lower joint first. If you have a low Bb key please hold it closed when you assemble the joints. Line up the posts so that the bridge keys will close the Bb. Next you will want to assemble the upper and lower joints. Carefully hold the upper most part of the upper joint and the bottom of the lower joint (holding any open keys gently closed). Align the main key posts rather than the bridge keys. To assemble cork joints gently twist the two parts until they are together. Finally hold the upper joint avoiding holding any keys (if possible) and insert the reed all the way, if the reed is not fully inserted air may leak. When removing your reed make sure you hold onto the cork, not the metal or actual reed.

♪ Maintenance

♪ Use **cork grease** as little as possible, but make sure you use it when you need it. To apply it properly you must rub the grease into the cork. Do not use chap stick.

♪ Use a drop swab (preferably silk) to **clean the moisture** out of the instrument before you return it to its case. To reduce the chance of having your swab stick, use your hand as a guide for the swab to ensure it feeds through in single thickness.

♪ Please **do not change the small adjustment screws** on your instrument until you have been properly trained on how to regulate your oboe.

♪ When a wooden instrument has loose socket rings it is an **emergency**. Do not attempt to assemble the instrument until they are repaired. You can crack your instrument by assembling it with loose rings.

♪ Please **do not use lotion silver polishes** on your instrument. The lotion can make a mess and harm your instrument. If you use a treated polishing cloth for any finish make sure it is for the proper finish. An example of why not to use the wrong cloth is that raw brass cloths can **scratch and harm lacquer**. One of the best ways to keep your instrument finish looking nice is to **wipe off your fingerprints** after every use. A **clean non-treated cotton cloth** works well for this.

♪ It is recommended that an instrument is taken to a professional repair technician **at least once a year** for general maintenance and cleaning. Doing so may prevent costly repairs that arise from lack of professional repair attention. A **qualified technician** can often discover a problem that you have learned how to overlook, play through or are not aware of.

♪ Case

- ♪ Place the case on a **flat, stable surface before opening case** and attempting to remove instrument.
- ♪ Do not set **anything** on top of an instrument in its case. This means sheet music! Damage occurs easily when items are set on the instrument and the case closed. Woodwind keys bend easily when anything is set on the instrument when the case is closed.
- ♪ Make sure the **case is secure**. Check all the hinges, latches, and handles to see if they are solidly fastened to the case and they close the case securely. Make sure that the instrument does not move around inside the case.
- ♪ Please **do not sit, rest feet on or otherwise apply pressure** to the outside of an instrument case. This can damage your case so that it does not properly protect the instrument.
- ♪ Carry the case so that if it does open, it will **open toward your body**, not the ground.

♪ Emergencies

- ♪ In an emergency, please **avoid any adhesives**. Use dental floss, Teflon (plumber's) tape, or something that will be easily removed when the instrument is properly repaired. Tape adhesive can create more of a mess than the temporary repair is worth.
- ♪ Also a word of caution, **rubber bands can eat silver plate**, so it is best to avoid any use of rubber bands on silver instrument parts.
- ♪ **Never use pliers or hammers** on your instrument. Improper use of household tools is a common cause of unnecessary damage to an instrument.

This information is provided for the benefit of your instrument by:



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