



Flute

To keep your instrument in the best possible condition please follow these suggestions:

♫ Assembly

- ♫ When assembling the flute **hold non-keyed parts** (the barrel and the bottom of the foot). The flute tenons work by friction and should not use lubrication of any kind. The embouchure hole should center with the C key and the D post on the foot should center in the D tone hole on the body.

♫ Maintenance

- ♫ Please **do not use lotion** silver polishes. They get into the mechanisms and on the pads, creating a mess as well as padding problems. Use a polishing cloth if a polished finish is desired. 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.
- ♫ Use an absorbent (preferably cotton) cloth to **clean out the moisture** before you return it to its case. By removing the moisture before putting it away you decrease the wear and tear on the pads. If you own a "shove-it" do not put it in your instrument until you have used a drop-swab. The "pad savers" only save the pads if you remove the moisture from the instrument first. Otherwise more harm is done because the moisture is directly next to the pads. Fuzz also gets everywhere, which can prevent pads from sealing and keys from moving.
- ♫ Occasionally you should **check your head cork** placement. Use your tuning/cleaning rod; the line should be centered in the embouchure hole. Please do not try to adjust the cork yourself.
- ♫ **Store your instrument in its case** when not in use, this will prevent any excessive tarnishing and lower the risk of being dropped or knocked over.
- ♫ 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. Super-glue will make a mess if a solder joint breaks. 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 instruments.
- ♫ **Never use pliers or hammers** on your instrument. Improper use of household tools is a common cause of unnecessary damage to an instrument.

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