Instrument Care: Clarinet

Parts of the Clarinet



Equipment:

Clarinet cleaning swab, cork grease, soft rag, Q-tips, reed protector

Daily cleaning:

After playing:

- Dry reed between fingers or with a cloth and put it in a protective case. NEVER leave your reed on the mouthpiece, you will quickly grow mold and harbor bacteria that can make you sick.
- 2) After removing the reed, use your swab to clean the inside of the mouthpiece.
- 3) Use the swab to clean in inside of the main body and the barrel (neck). Turn the instrument upside down and carefully pull swab through starting at the bell (like a funnel). This can be done either with the instrument still put together or each piece by itself.
- 4) Disassemble each piece and wipe off any moisture in between the pieces. Check corks often and grease when necessary.
- 5) When the pads are wet, place a cleaning paper between the pad and the tone hole and press the pads lightly to completely remove the moisture.







Monthly:

Wash mouthpiece in warm water and dry thoroughly. Lemon juice can be used to remove white scale. Wash your mouthpiece often, especially if you have been sick.

Wipe down outside of instrument with a soft, dry cloth.

Use Q-tips for tone holes and hard to reach areas, but be careful not to damage or move the straight metal springs.

Check all corks for grease. Dry corks become brittle and break and require professional repair immediately. Use Q-tips to clean between/inside joints to remove grease build-up.



Failure to complete daily cleaning will result in a foul smelling instrument that will not play well. Profession repair and cleaning will be required.

NEVER PUT THE BODY OF INSTRUMENT IN WATER!

School-owned instruments will be professionally cleaned and adjusted regularly. If your own instrument has not been adjusted in a long time, please take it to a music store. Ideally Woodwind instruments are adjusted every 6-12 months. An out-of-adjustment instrument will make it almost impossible to play.