

CLARINET CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Congratulations on setting out on one of the most exciting adventures: learning to play a musical instrument.

Your instrument will last a long time if it is properly looked after. Here are some tips to look after your clarinet.

1. Remove the reed after playing and store it in a reed holder to dry.

Put the rest of the clarinet in a safe place that is not too hot or too cold. Don't stand it on end, unless you have a clarinet stand, since it can fall over.

2. Use your polishing cloth to wipe fingerprints off the keywork and the ligature.

NEVER use any kind of metal polish! If you feel the keys are so dirty they cannot be cleaned with a polishing cloth, please contact Wollongong Wind Repairs; we have the necessary equipment to polish the keys back to a lovely shine.

3. Use your swab and drop the cloth's weight and string through the clarinet from the bell to the mouthpiece and pull it through.

You may have to do this several times. Take the clarinet apart and dry the tenons (these are the places where the joints of the clarinet fit together). Then, let the swab dry before putting it in the case, otherwise your keys will be discolored. If the case is hard to close with the swab inside, please don't force it shut. Simply store the swab elsewhere. If not, the keywork could get bent.

4. Get out some cork grease.

Grease the corks by rubbing cork grease on them with your fingers. You don't need to do this EACH time you take your clarinet apart, or even very often, as too much cork grease will weaken the corks and make them prone to breaking apart. Just examine your corks regularly and apply cork grease as needed depending upon the dryness or wear in the cork. You may need to grease them more often in the winter months. If the instrument is difficult to put together or take apart, put cork grease on the corks. Only use the smallest amount, just enough to grease the corks.



Wollongong



Wind Repairs

5. **Swab the inside of the joints to get rid of the excess saliva there.**
6. **From time to time, use an ear cleaner to wipe the inside of the mouthpiece to remove the gunk that will collect.**
7. **Place the mouthpiece cap on the mouthpiece and store the clarinet in its case.**
Ensure the individual parts are placed correctly in the case, or it may not shut. Some clarinet keys can very easily get bent when forced even gently.

NEVER...

- * ... run your clarinet under water, hot or cold.
- * ... use any kind of metal polish on the keys or the ligature.
- * ... pull your swab through the clarinet from the wrong end.
 - * ... try to remove a stuck swab.
 - * ... attempt to clean pads.
 - * ... take the keys off the clarinet.
- * ... attempt to repair ANYTHING yourself.
 - * ... forget to practise!

