



## Clarinet Care & Maintenance

### Materials needed\*:

Clarinet Swab (cloth or silk)      Clarinet HW Pad-Saver® Reed Guard  
Woodwind Mouthpiece Brush      Cork Grease

\*Items are available at any REW Music store location

### *Assembling Your Clarinet:*

#### Step 1 - Assembling:

- To ensure your reed is wet enough to play well, always place reed in your mouth before you begin assembling your instrument
- Grip the upper joint so that with your fingertips you can press down the keys that raise the bridge key that sticks out on the bottom of the joint
- Grip the lower joint in your other hand; avoid gripping and pressing on the keys to avoid alignment issues
- Use a slight twisting motion to put the joints together - keys should NOT collide
  - Make sure the bridge key on the upper joint lines up to the other side of the bridge on the lower joint
- Using the same slight twisting motion, assemble the bell, then the barrel
- If clarinet does not go together easily, apply cork grease

#### Step 2 - Mouthpiece and Reed:

- Remove the mouthpiece from the ligature and mouthpiece cap before putting the mouthpiece on the barrel
  - Line up flat mouthpiece facing with register key
- Place ligature on mouthpiece, remove the reed from your mouth and slide under the ligature on to the mouthpiece, thick end first
- Align reed properly and snug up ligature

### *Cleaning And Disassembling Your Clarinet:*

#### Step 1:

- Loosen ligature and remove reed from mouthpiece by pushing it up from the bottom, wipe off and store flat in reed guard
- Remove ligature and put away in case
- To swab out clarinet: Thread weighted string through the bell end first, make sure swab is not bunched together and gently pull through clarinet to remove moisture.
  - This may be repeated several times.

#### Step 2:

- Disassemble clarinet, gripping joints the same way as when putting together, put away in case
- Pad Savers: These go inside the upper and lower joints and stay there while instrument is stored in case to continue pulling moisture away from pads

#### Step 3 - Weekly Mouthpiece Cleaning:

Run warm (not hot) water through your mouthpiece. Use woodwind mouthpiece brush to brush out any buildup or debris that has had a chance to build up inside the chamber of your mouthpiece. A drop of dish soap will also help combat germs and remove build up more easily. Rinse, dry the outside and put away in your case.

#### REMEMBER:

- Never place clarinet in water
- Avoid grabbing or gripping upper and lower joints across the keys to avoid bending and changing key alignment
- Raise the bridge key when assembling upper and lower joints together
- Never force anything that is difficult to put together or take apart
- Always remove your reed from the mouthpiece and store safely in reed guard when you are done playing
- Reed tips are fragile - avoid handling

Do this every time you play to keep your instrument in top playing condition!