



CARE OF THE BASSOON

Required accessories:

Cotton swab

Reed holder (purchase a holder that holds at least 3 reeds)

Film canister (for holding water for soaking)

Procedure for cleaning:

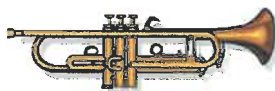
1. Take the reed off and blow out the excess water. Gently put the reed back into its case.
2. Swab out each part of the bassoon by dropping the weighted end of the swab through each piece and pulling gently. If the swab gets stuck, pull it out the other way and try again. Never force the swab through.
3. Clean any water out of the bocal by blowing fast air through the corked end and opening and closing the whisper key hole with your thumb.

Greasing the corks:

1. Wipe off any old grease from the corks.
2. Apply a small amount of grease to the corks and rub it in with your fingers. Do not get any grease on the keys, pads, or body of the bassoon.
3. Wipe off any extra grease with a tissue. Don't forget to wipe your hands!
4. Corks should be greased about once each week or more if they get dried out or if the instrument is hard to put together. This will prevent possible costly damage to the corks as well as the keys.

Do's and Don'ts

- DO have at least two good (unchipped and not too old) working reeds in your case.
- DON'T keep music in your case! Many bassoons end up with bent keys due to the weight of books and music.
- DO be careful about putting your bassoon together and putting it back into the case.
- DON'T let anyone else touch or play your instrument.
- DON'T attempt to tighten or loosen any screws. You and your parents should not attempt any repairs on your instrument because more costly damage could result. Tell your director if there is a problem.
- DO rest your instrument on your lap, not on the floor and not on a stand.
- DO wash your swab every couple of weeks.



INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC DEPARTMENT
District 45

CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF BRASS INSTRUMENTS

BEFORE PLAYING

Your mouth should always be clean before playing. Otherwise, food particles will build up inside the horn and clog up the mechanisms. This is a major cause of repair bills. If you can't brush your teeth, take a drink of water before blowing into your instrument.

When inserting the mouthpiece into the horn, place the mouthpiece in the leadpipe then gently give it a half twist. That is all that is necessary. NEVER PUSH a mouthpiece directly into your horn or tap it in! Mouthpieces get stuck this way.

OILING VALVES

Except for beginning trombone players, all brass instruments have valves. These valves should be oiled twice a week. Use the method shown to you by your director. It is very important that the valves are oiled regularly.

TROMBONE SLIDES

If you play trombone, your slide should be lubricated twice a week. When you pull the slide off, take special care not to damage the exposed metal tubes. This part of your trombone is delicate and must be treated gently because it dents and bends easily. Lubricate your slide as shown to you by your director.

LUBRICATING TUNING SLIDE AND VALVE SLIDES

For all brass instruments, lubricate your tuning slides and valve slides at least one a month with tuning slide grease. Before you pull out a valve slide, remember to depress the corresponding valve first; also, remember to press the valve before putting the slide back in. Pulling a valve slide without pressing the valve damages the mechanism.

To lubricate your slides, first remove the slides properly as indicated above. Carefully wipe off the slides with a soft cloth. This is important so that old gunk does not build up. A thin coating of tuning slide grease should then be applied to the sides. After the slide is replaced, wipe off any excess.

REQUIRED ACCESSORIES

1. Tuning slide grease (all brass instruments)
2. Rotor oil (french horn only)
3. Valve oil (trumpet, baritone, tuba)
4. Slide spray (trombones)
5. Pencil (all instruments)



INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC DISTRICT #45

CARE OF THE CLARINET

Required accessories:

Cork grease

Reed guard (buy a plastic guard that holds four reeds- they are less likely to chip reeds)

Swab (buy a hankiechief swab from the store- the chamois swabs that come with the clarinet do not absorb much moisture)

Pencil

Procedure for cleaning:

1. Take the reed off of the mouthpiece and gently slip it into a reed guard.
2. Wipe out the mouthpiece with the swab.
3. Swab out the clarinet by dropping the weighted end of the swab through each piece and pulling gently. If the swab gets stuck, pull it out the other way and try again. Never force the swab through.
4. Swab each piece two or three times.
5. Roll up your swab and tuck it back into the case.

Greasing the corks:

1. Wipe off any old grease from the corks.
2. Apply a small amount of grease to the corks and rub it in with your fingers. Do not get any grease on the keys, pads, or body of the clarinet.
3. Wipe off any extra grease with a tissue. Don't forget to wipe your hands!
4. Corks should be greased about once a week or more if they get dried out or if the instrument is hard to put together. This will prevent possible costly damage to the corks as well as to the keys.

Do's and Don'ts

- DO keep at least four good (unchipped and not too old) working reeds in your reed guard.
- DON'T keep music in your case! Many clarinets end up with bent keys due to the weight of books and music (unless your clarinet has a specific spot for books)
- DO be careful about putting your clarinet together and putting it back into the case.
- DON'T let anyone else touch or play your instrument.
- DON'T attempt to tighten or loosen any screws. You and your parents should not attempt any repairs on your instrument because more costly damage could result.
- DO rest your instrument on your lap, not on the floor and not on the stand.
- DO wash your swab every couple of weeks.



INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC DISTRICT #45

CARE OF THE FLUTE

Required Accessories:

- Tuning rod (comes with the flute)
- Men's handkerchief
- Pencil

Procedure for Cleaning:

1. Put one corner of the handkerchief through the hole in the tuning rod.
2. Pull the handkerchief over the end of the rod.
3. Gently push the handkerchief-covered rod through each section of the flute, using a twisting motion. Make sure the metal rod does not touch the flute.
4. When you are finished, pull out the handkerchief and wipe off the end of the head joint and the tone hole.
5. Store the rod in a corner of the case where it will not move. Fold the handkerchief so it fits in the case and lay it on top of the flute.

Dos and Don'ts

- DON'T keep music in your case.
- DO wash your handkerchief every couple of weeks.
- DO be careful about putting your flute together and putting it back in the case.
- DON'T let anyone else touch or play with your instrument.
- DON'T attempt to tighten or loosen any screws. You and your parents should not attempt any repairs on your instrument because costly damage could result. Tell your director if you have a problem.
- DO rest your instrument on your lap, not on the floor or on the stand.
- DON'T use any lubrication on the head joint.



INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC DISTRICT #45

CARE OF THE OBOE

Required accessories:

Cork grease

Oboe swab (silk)

Pencil

Film canister or other small container for water for soaking reeds

Procedure for cleaning:

1. Take the reed off and blow out the excess water. Gently put the reed back into its case.
2. Swab out each part of the oboe by pulling the swab into the bore. Do not attempt to pull the swab all the way through the top joint.
3. Replace any plastic joint guards.

Greasing the corks:

1. Wipe off any old grease from the corks.
2. Apply a small amount of grease to the corks and rub in with your fingers. Do not get any grease on the keys, pads, or body of the oboe.
3. Wipe off any extra grease with a tissue. Don't forget to wipe off your hands!
4. Corks should be greased about once each week or more if they get dried out or if the instrument is hard to put together. This will prevent possible costly damage to the corks as well as the keys.

Do's and Don'ts

- DO have at least two good (unchipped and not too old) reeds in your case.
- DO see your director if your reed is too hard to play. She will be able to shave it down with a reed knife and make it easier.
- DO be careful about putting your oboe together and putting it back in the case.
- DON'T let anyone else touch or play your instrument.
- DON'T attempt to tighten or loosen any screws. Oboe screws are very carefully calibrated and tightening them all the way will cause the instrument to stop working. You and your parents should not attempt any repairs on your instrument because costly damage could result. Tell your teacher if there is a problem with your instrument.
- DO rest your instrument on your lap, not on the floor and not on the stand.



To the Jefferson Area Percussion parents and students-

Now that we are starting the school year, it is time to remind everyone of the equipment they should be bringing to each lesson and rehearsal. Just as woodwind players need to invest in reeds and cork grease and brass players need to invest in valve and slide oil, percussionists should invest in several sets of sticks and mallets. This equipment (if treated properly) can last for many years and is an important (and not very expensive) investment for percussionists. These sticks should be brought to every rehearsal (along with their bell kit and practice pad). Below is a list of required equipment....

PREP BAND:

Required: Pair of drum sticks and pair of rubber or plastic bell mallets

Optional but useful: Medium yarn mallets

INTERMEDIATE BAND:

Required: Pair of drum sticks, pair of rubber or plastic bell mallets, and pair of medium yarn mallets

Optional but useful: Pair of staccato or general purpose timpani mallets

CONCERT BAND:

Required: Pair of drum sticks, pair of rubber or plastic bell mallets, pair of medium yarn mallets, and pair of staccato or general purpose timpani mallets

Optional but useful: Pair of brass mallets, wire snare brushes, hard yarn mallets, soft yarn mallets

I also recommend purchasing a stick or mallet bag. These easily hold all of the sticks and make carrying the equipment to and from rehearsal a much easier process. All of the sticks and mallets can be purchased from any instrument dealer. If you have any questions about stick or mallet recommendations, please feel free to call me at 630-516-7849 or e-mail me at cwallbruch@d45.org. Thanks!

Mrs. Wallbruch
Jefferson Band Director



CARE OF THE SAXOPHONE

REQUIRED ACCESSORIES

Pencil
Cork Grease
Reed Guard
Saxophone Swab

PROCEDURE FOR CLEANING

1. Take the reed off the mouthpiece and gently slip it into a reed guard.
2. Swab out the saxophone by inserting and removing the saxophone swab into the horn several times.
3. Make sure you have the ligature and ligature cap on your mouthpiece.

GREASING THE CORKS

1. Apply a small amount of grease to the neck cork and rub it in with your fingers. Do not get any grease on the keys, pads, or body of the saxophone.
2. Corks should be greased about once a week or more if they get dried out or if the instrument is hard to put together. This will prevent possible costly damage to the corks as well as the keys.

DOS AND DON'TS

1. Do keep at least four good reeds in your reed guard.
2. Don't leave the reed on the mouthpiece – MOLD will start to grow!
3. Do periodically wash out your mouthpiece with dishwashing detergent and lukewarm water.
4. Don't keep music in your case -- keys will bend and the instrument will have to be repaired.
5. Do be careful about putting your saxophone together and putting it back into the case.
6. Don't let anyone else touch your instrument.
7. Don't attempt to tighten or loosen any screws. You and your parents should not make any repairs on your instrument because more costly damage could result. Tell your director if you have a problem.



INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC DISTRICT #45

REEDS: A PRIMER FOR PARENTS AND THEIR CLARINET, SAXOPHONE, OBOE, OR BASSOON STUDENTS

What reeds should we buy?

It is very important that clarinet and saxophone players in their 1-2 year of playing should play on a 2 or 2 ½ strength reed, and those in their 3-5 year of playing should play on a 3 or 3 1/2 strength reed. Oboe and bassoon players in their first or second year should play on a medium soft reed. Oboe and bassoon players in their 3-5 year of playing should play on a medium or hard reed. These reed strengths are not set in stone, however, and the first consideration should always be the comfort of the player and the tone quality of the instrument.

NEVER BUY FIBERCANE (plastic) REEDS! They sound horrible and do nothing to teach proper lip and jaw placement.

How often will we need to buy reeds?

We recommend that you purchase a large amount of reeds when you begin (e.g.- a box of clarinet reeds contains ten and should last at least half the year). If a reed is too soft or “played out”, or if the reed is chipped, the director will not allow the player to use it anymore. Be prepared to make a regular investment in a constant supply of reeds -- much like putting gas in the car.

A clarinet or saxophone player needs at least three **WORKING** reeds at all times; an oboe or bassoon player needs at least two. It is important to realize that reeds do not last long and need to be replaced often. A beginner will go through their first two or three reeds within the first few weeks. Reeds do chip and break easily, so it is wise to keep a reed holder of some sort within the case. **DO NOT LEAVE THE REED ON THE MOUTHPIECE UNLESS YOU WANT TO START YOUR OWN PERSONAL MOLD FARM.**

For Oboe and Bassoon players:

Many students want to know why they can't just soak reeds in their mouth, like clarinet and saxophone players. The reason is simple: When a single reed (like a clarinet or saxophone) is soaked in the mouth, 100% of the surface area gets wet. However, when a double reed (like an oboe or bassoon) is soaked in the mouth, only 50% of the surface area gets wet. This makes it difficult for the reed to respond and causes frustration for the player. The simple solution is to **ALWAYS** soak the reed in a vial of water (such as a pill bottle or film canister) before playing. Mrs. Wallbruch always has lots of extra vials for free – just ask her for one if you need it!