

Basic Care of Your Clarinet

Clarinets are fairly robust instruments, but there are a few things to be aware of to prevent damage

Assembling

The children have been shown how to assemble the instruments but here is a quick guide-

1. Hold the bell in the right hand and the lower joint, (this is nearest to front of the case) in your left hand. Try to avoid touching or putting pressure on any of the keys. Put the cork end into the bell and gently twist the two parts together.
2. Hold the upper joint in your left hand and gently close the ring keys on the front of the instrument.
3. Hold the two parts you have joined in your right hand while you put the upper and lower parts together. Make sure the holes on both parts are in line while you put the together and gently twist. Release the ring keys once you have put them together.
4. Put the mouthpiece and barrel on to the top part of the instrument

Mouthpiece reed, ligature (metal with screws on) and cap

The mouthpiece is already set up and left ready to play in the case, but if you need to re-assemble

1. Take the cap off
2. Put the flat side of the reed against the flat side of the mouthpiece, and carefully put the ligature over the reed and mouthpiece with the screws pointing to the *right*. Be very careful the reed doesn't get damaged when the ligature goes over.
3. Put the reed tip *just* below the top of the mouthpiece
4. The top of the ligature needs to be just below U shape on the reed
5. Do the screws up but not too tightly
6. Put on to the rest of the clarinet with the reed facing *down*

To avoid passing colds and other possible mouth infections I would suggest that *only* your child plays their clarinet.

Put the clarinet back in its case after using it to avoid damage.

I hope you enjoy the experience and good luck!!

Simon Grew, Clarinet Teacher

