



## Common Problems with your Clarinet

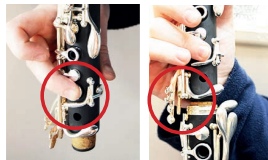
- How do I stop the mouthpiece vibrating when playing?  
When learning the clarinet, you may find that the mouthpiece vibrates your teeth as you play which can be uncomfortable. We would suggest using a rubber mouthpiece patch as this will stop the vibrations.
- How do I prevent a sore thumb?  
We would recommend purchasing a thumb cushion. This accessory will stop the thumb rest digging into your skin.
- One of my keys keeps sticking?  
Moisture is the common cause of keys sticking. Placing kitchen roll or Rizla paper under the key pads which are sticking will remove any moisture.
- I keep chipping my reed?  
Reeds are delicate so always try to protect it when you're not playing. If it is on your mouthpiece, attach the mouthpiece cap. In between playing, take the reed off the mouthpiece and place in a reed guard.

## How to Put your Clarinet Together

When putting the clarinet together you will need to apply cork grease to the joints. To put your clarinet together, you simply go from bottom to top. Take the bell of the clarinet and attach it to the bottom of the lower joint.



When attaching the upper joint to the lower joint you must hold down the middle D key as this will lift a little lever. This protects the keys whilst you join the two parts of the clarinet together.



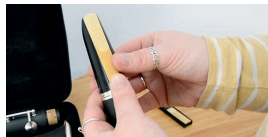
Now you need to add the barrel on top of the upper joint and the mouthpiece on top of the barrel. Make sure that the reed is facing towards you.



## How to Attach the Reed

### 1. Place the Reed

Place the flat edge of the reed against the top of the mouthpiece. The curved edge of the mouthpiece should line up perfectly. If the reed is too high/low it will make playing very hard or even impossible.



### 2. Add the Ligature

Whilst keeping the reed in position, place the ligature carefully over the top of the mouthpiece, making sure not to touch the top of the reed as this can cause damage.



### 3. Tighten the Ligature

Tighten the screws of the ligature. You can check that the reed is in place by gently pressing the reed against the mouthpiece. The curved edges should line up with each other.



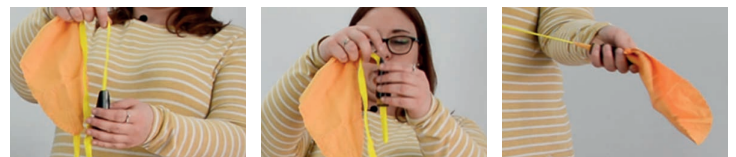
## Taking Care of your Clarinet

Cleaning the clarinet from excess moisture every time it's played will reduce the chances of any problems occurring over time.

When finished playing, remove the mouthpiece first. Unscrew the ligature and remove this, followed by the reed. It is important to wipe the reed of excess moisture as this will help prevent mould. Place the reed back into the reed guard, to protect this from being damaged.

Use a cloth to wipe the inside of the mouthpiece and then add the mouthpiece cap to prevent any damage. It is recommended to wash the mouthpiece once a week with warm water.

It is advised to use a pull-through cloth (pictured) to remove moisture from the main body of the clarinet as this will prevent any problems. Make sure you place all the parts of the clarinet back in the case to keep them safe.



Reeds will need replacing every so often depending on how long you play for. Once the reed is chipped or broken in any way, you will need to replace this for a new reed.

Occasionally, the joints of the clarinet will become stiff and it will make it hard to put together. This is when you should grease the joints to ensure no damage occurs to the parts.