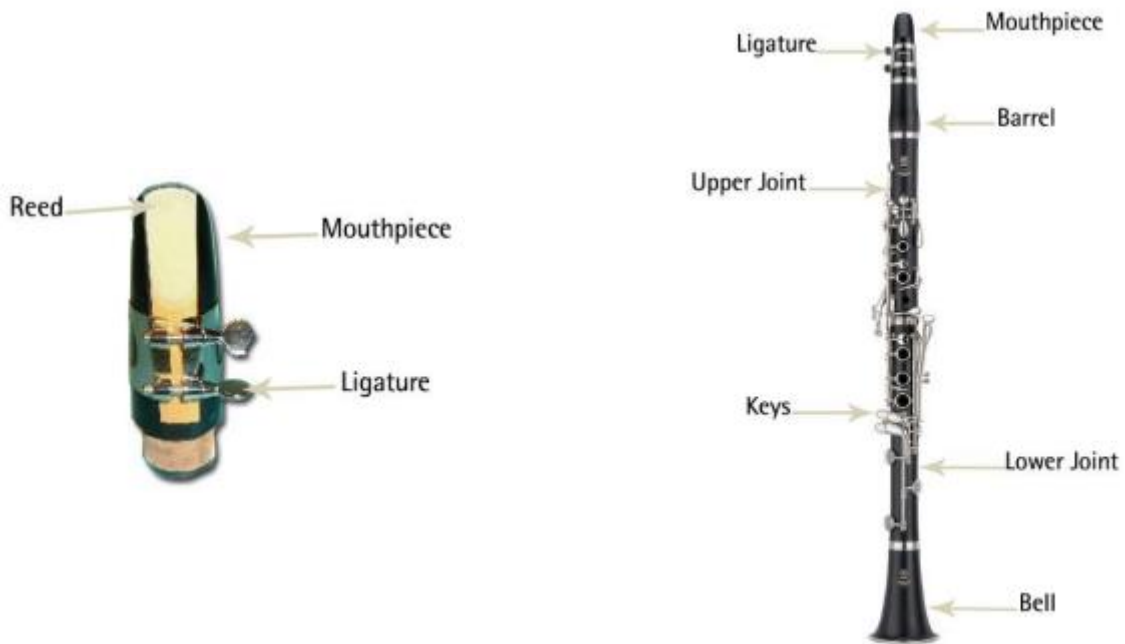


in partnership with

NORMANS
MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS



Caring for your Clarinet

Assembly

Push/twist the bell onto the lower joint. This may need a little cork grease if very stiff. Try not to grip the keys as these can bend easily. To join the two key joints, lift the key that links the two joints together (on the top joint which sticks down below the joint) and slowly and carefully, push and twist the two joints together. Make sure the key that links the two joints does not get caught as this can cause several problems (if in doubt at this stage, consult your teacher for advice). Then, twist the barrel onto the top joint. Then place the reed onto the mouthpiece (flat side inwards) and attach this using the ligature (as in picture above). Push the mouthpiece into the top of the barrel. To disassemble, repeat the above but backwards.

Every Time You Play

- Ensure no food, sweets or sugary drinks are consumed just before or during play. This can leave a residue within the instrument and is usually the cause of 'sticky' pads and other problems.

- After playing, remove the reed from the instrument and put back into its cover to dry out. This will ensure that the reed doesn't warp. If the reed becomes chipped/split it is unlikely to work and will need replacing. (The life of a reed is solely dependent on how well it is looked after.)
- Use a pull through, to clean the inside of the instrument once you have finished playing. This helps to dry out the pads and keep them in good condition.
- At least once a week, wipe the instrument down with a soft polishing cloth as over time dirt build-up can cause problems with the lacquer if not cleaned sufficiently.
- Check that the cork joints are greased enough. Not enough will make the clarinet difficult to assemble, too much and the joints will not stay in position.
- Check the instrument over regularly. If something looks out of place/unusual, ask the teacher to inspect it.

Common Clarinet Problems

Bent Keys - Clarinet keys can get bent very easily. As they are made from such a soft metal, extra care is needed when assembling and taking the clarinet apart.

PLEASE NOTE - BENT KEYS ARE NOT COVERED UNDER WARRANTY.

Sticking Pads – This tends to be because the pads are dirty and need to be cleaned. Put a piece of thin paper (e.g. cigarette paper) under the key, close the key and gently pull the paper out. This should remove any residue that is on the keys. If in doubt, take this to the teacher to look at.

The following items will help to keep the instrument in the best possible condition.

Reeds, Polishing cloth, Cork Grease, Pull Through.

If you wish to purchase any of these items, please visit www.normans.co.uk or email sales@normans.co.uk