

CARING FOR YOUR CLARINET

ASSEMBLING YOUR CLARINET:

1. Lay your clarinet case flat on the floor or on a table with the label facing up and carefully open the case.
2. Hold the lower section in your right hand and the upper section in your left hand.
3. Push the tone hole rings down in your left hand to raise the bridge key, then gently push and twist the upper and lower sections together (make sure you align the bridge key with its partner on the lower section!).
4. Gently push and twist the bell onto the lower section.
5. Now gently twist the barrel and then the mouthpiece onto the upper section.
6. Place the ligature on the mouthpiece with the screws pointing to the right.
7. Allow the reed to soak in your mouth for 10 seconds, then very carefully slide the reed between the ligature and the opening on the mouthpiece. The flat side of the reed should be touching the mouthpiece and the thinnest part should line up exactly with the tip of the mouthpiece.
8. Tighten the ligature screws until it lightly grips the mouthpiece and reed.



IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- If it is too difficult to put the parts of your clarinet together, apply a small amount of cork grease to the cork on the clarinet (cork grease can be purchased at any music store or on websites such as Amazon for very cheap).
- There are many moving parts on your clarinet that can be pulled out or unscrewed. Never pull out or unscrew any part of your clarinet except what is needed to assemble and disassemble the instrument. These are for your teachers or an instrument repair professional to handle.

WHAT NOT TO DO WITH YOUR CLARINET:

- Eat or drink things with sugar before you play.
- Place your clarinet on the floor, especially on its bell.
- Swing around your clarinet case or clarinet.
- Leave your clarinet in the car or other place where it can be stolen.
- Place any object into your clarinet.