

FLUTE MAINTENACEN GUIDE

ASSEMBLY & DISASSEMBLY

We will begin with the basics of setting up and taking apart a flute. When assembling the Flute these are the Do's & Do Not's

DO – Wash your hands and rinse out your mouth before taking the flute out to practice.

DO – Set the case on a hard immobile surface, such as a table or on the floor, when opening the case

DO NOT – Put the case on a music stand when opening the case – IT WILL FALL OFF

DO – Make sure the case has the right side up when opening

DO – Wipe down the contact points of the joints with a cloth before twisting them together

DO NOT – Force a stuck or hard to twist joint

DO NOT- Grasp the flute around the mechanism when putting the flute together, this can bend the keys

DO NOT – Use Vaseline or any other lubricants on the joints

DO – Swab out the flute before putting it away.

NO SWORD FIGHTING

The epic battle between flute and clarinet continues, but please do not use your flute as a sword. Also it is a bad idea to use it as a cricket bat, hockey stick, twirling baton or walking stick. Although you play it, it is not a toy.

CLEANING AND SWABBING

When it is time to put away the flute, do not be in a rush. Hurrying is how dents are made.

DO - Swab out all three joints with a cotton or silk handkerchief attached to the swab stick

DO NOT – Use a “Pad Saver” / “Fuzzy Stick” sort of swab unless you keep it outside of the case.

These do a reasonable job of absorbing moisture, but when they are stored inside the body of the flute the moisture remains and can therefore be absorbed by the pads. They also get mouldy if not allowed to dry properly.

DO – Wipe off the surface of the flute with a clean dry cotton cloth.

DO NOT – Just leave your flute assembled and throw it in the locker. Put it in the case and lock your locker.

DO NOT – Turn your flute into a biological science experiment by never cleaning out the spit from inside or wiping it off the outside. It will grow.

This is general information; please see the user guide for your specific instrument.

FLUTE MAINTENACEN GUIDE

STICKY PADS

If the pads get sticky they can cause the keys to not open properly and cause an annoying sticky noise. Here is how to remove the stick the right way.

DO – Use rice paper to clean the pads. It will not damage the,

DO – Blot the rice paper on the pa by opening and closing the pad over the paper. Do not close and tug.

HEAD CORK TUNING

This is best left to your band director if he/she advises it. But there is one thing to keep in mind...

DO NOT – Mess with the crown (little twisty screw thingy at the end of the head joint). This will affect the tuning of the instrument. Just don't touch it!

POLISHING

DO NOT – Polish your instrument, not even with silver polishing cloths. If cleaned after every practice and performance it shouldn't tarnish too quickly. Don't leave it out of the case or store any rubber bands or similar things in the case with the flute.

DO – Wipe fingerprints off with a CLEAN, UNTREATED, COTTON CLOTH – ONLY.

A player with a well tarnished flute means one thing: He/she practices a heck of a lot. Be afraid...

OILING

DO NOT – Use the "Fire-Hydrant" sized nozzle on the key oil. Only the tiniest droplet of oil is required on the contact points on the keywork, and then only once or twice per year, depending on frequency of use. The traditional method is to use the point of a pin dipped into a little oil which will then enter the tiny gap between the rods and posts by capillary action. If in doubt about how long to do this, get a qualified repairer to do it when you are having the annual service and cleaning/

This is general information; please see the user guide for your specific instrument.