

## **PREPARATION FOR ASSEMBLY**

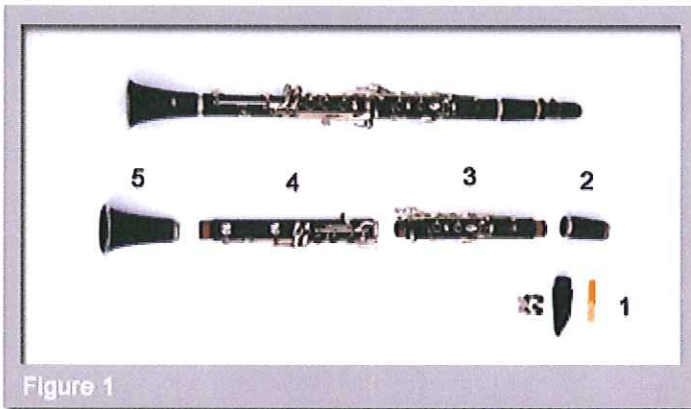


Figure 1

Your clarinet has  
5 major parts:

1. Mouthpiece assembly
2. Barrel
3. Upper joint
4. Lower joint
5. Bell

Care must be taken when assembling these parts to avoid damage. The mouthpiece is held firmly on the neck by the neck cork. The neck cork must be given a light coating of cork grease before the mouthpiece is put on the neck. Cork grease should be applied as often as necessary to allow the mouthpiece to twist onto the neck smoothly and easily.

The reed must also be prepared before playing. This is done by placing the thin end of the reed on your tongue and moistening it in your mouth. This will allow the reed to vibrate properly. Be careful not to bite or put pressure on the reed while it is in your mouth as it will break very easily!

### **ASSEMBLING THE CLARINET**

The most important step during assembly is to avoid bending keys while twisting the sections together. The order in which the parts are assembled is not critical, however, the following method works well:

1. Take the bell and the lower joint and

### **DISASSEMBLY / CLEANING**

When you are finished playing the instrument should be taken apart with the same care with which it was assembled.

1. Remove the reed, wipe off the excess moisture and place it in a reed

press them together in a twisting motion.

2. Take the upper joint in your left hand and hold it with your fingers pressing down on the finger holes/keys



Figure 2

(This will lift the bridge key so that it does not get bent). Take the lower joint in your right hand, being careful not to press down on the finger holes/keys. Align the holes on the upper and lower joints. Carefully press the joints together in a twisting motion (Figure 2).

3. While continuing to hold the upper joint in your left hand twist the barrel onto the top tenon cork.
4. Now hold the clarinet by the barrel and twist the mouthpiece onto it. The flat side of the mouthpiece (the lay) should be lined up with the thumb hole on the back of the clarinet.

5. Place the reed against the mouthpiece with the flat side down and the tip (thin end) lining up with the tip of the mouthpiece. Secure it with the ligature. The standard



Figure 3

case/holder.

2. Remove the mouthpiece and store it in the case with the ligature and cap on it.

3. Hold the clarinet upside down. Drop the weighted end of the swab into the bell and pull it through the bore of the clarinet a couple of times (Figure 4).



Figure 4

4. Pull all the remaining sections of the clarinet apart in same manner that they were assembled.

Periodically, a more thorough cleaning should be done.

- Use a soft cloth to wipe fingerprints off of the keys in order to prevent tarnishing.
- If a pad becomes sticky, it can be cleaned with cleaning paper. Take one sheet of the cleaning paper and insert it between the pad and tone hole. Lightly press the key closed while gently pulling the paper out. Repeat this several times. This will clean off residue and excess moisture.

position is where you can just see the tip of the mouthpiece above the tip of the reed (Figure 3).



- The finger holes will accumulate dirt. This should be cleaned out with a tone hole cleaner. A great amount of care should be used. It is best to fold the cleaner and use the folded end to clean out the tone holes. Avoid using the sharp ends, as they may scratch the finish. When it gets dirty, fold a clean section of the cleaner again and continue.

- Dirt buildup in the mouthpiece can be washed out with warm soapy water using the mouthpiece brush (Figure 5).



Figure 5

### **IMPORTANT TIPS**

- NEVER put the upper or lower joints of the clarinet in water! Doing so would result in costly repair.
- Joints should ALWAYS be put together and taken apart with a twisting motion. If this is not done, the fragile tenons may crack.
- The mouthpiece and reed are a crucial part of tone production on the clarinet. A chipped or cracked reed or mouthpiece will hinder your ability to play properly.
- Avoid squeezing the keys and rods.
- If you have a wooden clarinet, additional accessories and care are needed. Please speak to one of our repair technicians for guidance.