

Cleaning Guide for CLARINET

I. MOUTHPIECE

- a. Materials – small bowl, warm water, some dishwashing liquid, a small toothbrush or a mouthpiece brush.
- b. Procedure
 - i. Use a paper towel to wipe the cork grease from the mouthpiece cork. You should also remove any built up cork grease from the tenon.
 - ii. Put some warm water and a few drops of liquid soap in the bowl. Mix thoroughly.
 - iii. Dip the brush in the water. Clean the inside of the mouthpiece with the brush, dipping the brush back in the soapy water as needed.
 - iv. Clean the outside of the mouthpiece in the same way. You can also use a clean cloth dipped in the soapy water to clean the outside.
 - v. Rinse the inside, then the outside of the mouthpiece with cold running water from the faucet. Be careful not to get too much water on the mouthpiece cork.
 - vi. Dry the mouthpiece with a clean, soft cloth. Be sure to put more cork grease on the cork before you assemble your instrument.

II. TOP JOINT, BOTTOM JOINT, BARREL, BELL

- a. Materials – clean, soft cloth; child's soft toothbrush; artist's paint brush or woodwind key brush, Q-tips, paper towels, swab.
- b. Procedure
 - i. Swab each joint together with the barrel and bell several times. Look through the bore. If the inside is not clean, repeat the procedure until it is.
 - ii. Using the paper towels, clean the cork grease from the tenons on each joint. Clean the tenon receivers in the same way.
 - iii. Use Q-tips to clean each tone hole (there are three on the bottom joint and four on the top joint). If the "gunk" is stubborn, lightly dampen the Q-tip with water.
 - iv. Use a brush or the Q-tips to clean dust from the areas around and under the keys and rods. Take care not to move any springs.
 - v. Using the soft, clean cloth, wipe the outside areas to remove all fingerprints and smudges. Wipe the keys with this cloth also. Do not put anything (oil, Vaseline, rubbing alcohol, etc.) on the outside of the clarinet!
 - vi. Put fresh cork grease on the corks when the cleaning process is complete.

III. THE CASE

- a. You should clean the case each time you clean your instrument. Remove any unnecessary items and find them another home.
- b. Thoroughly vacuum the inside of the case before you return the instrument to it.
- c. Be sure to store all items (reeds, swab, cork grease, pencil) in the spaces provided so that they do not get under the keys. Put nothing between the top of the case and the clarinet.