

Proper Care of your Oboe



Needed Supplies

- Silk cleaning swab, cork grease, reed soaking cup, reed case
 - Reeds (provided)
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Daily Care

- Carry your oboe upright and close to your upper body to prevent bumps. Remove the reed and put it in the reed case when carrying the oboe.
- If you need to set it down, remove the reed, disassemble the oboe and put it back in its case. If this is not practical, separate the oboe at the middle joint, and gently place both halves on or under your chair with no part of the instrument sticking out.
- The action of setting your oboe down should be SILENT.
- Never set your oboe on a music stand or upright on its bell.
- Never roll the oboe in your lap, as this can bend keys.
- Always take extreme care with your reeds, as they are fragile and very expensive.
- To prepare new reeds for playing, simply dip the reed in water and set it on a safe surface for 2-3 minutes. Older reeds may require a bit longer soak time.
- Never adjust a dry reed. Always make sure it is soaked before adjusting the opening.
- If possible, allow the reed to sit in an open reed case after playing, so the reed may fully dry.
- Completely swab out your oboe after playing to prevent costly pad replacement. Insert the swab into the bell end and pull out through the top to minimize the spread of moisture.
- Immediately undo any knots in your swab. If you feel resistance in pulling the swab through, stop pulling through the top end and pull back out through the bottom.
- Always store your reeds in the reed case, not the packaging tube they come in.
- Put your oboe completely away when you're done playing, with all case latches closed.
- If you need to send in your instrument for repair, take out your reeds and swab to use with a loaner instrument.

Weekly Care

- Apply cork grease as needed.
 - Check for and tighten any loose screws.
 - If you have a polishing rag, wipe down the outside of your oboe.
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Monthly Care

- Hand wash and air dry your cleaning cloth.