

The parts of your clarinet

Let's go over the parts of your clarinet before we assemble the instrument. There are 7 main parts to your clarinet which are:

The bell (9)

The lower joint (the longer piece with keys) (8)

The upper joint (the shorter piece with the keys) (7)

The barrel (6)

The mouthpiece (5)

The ligature (3)

The reed (4)

There are also several accessories which include:

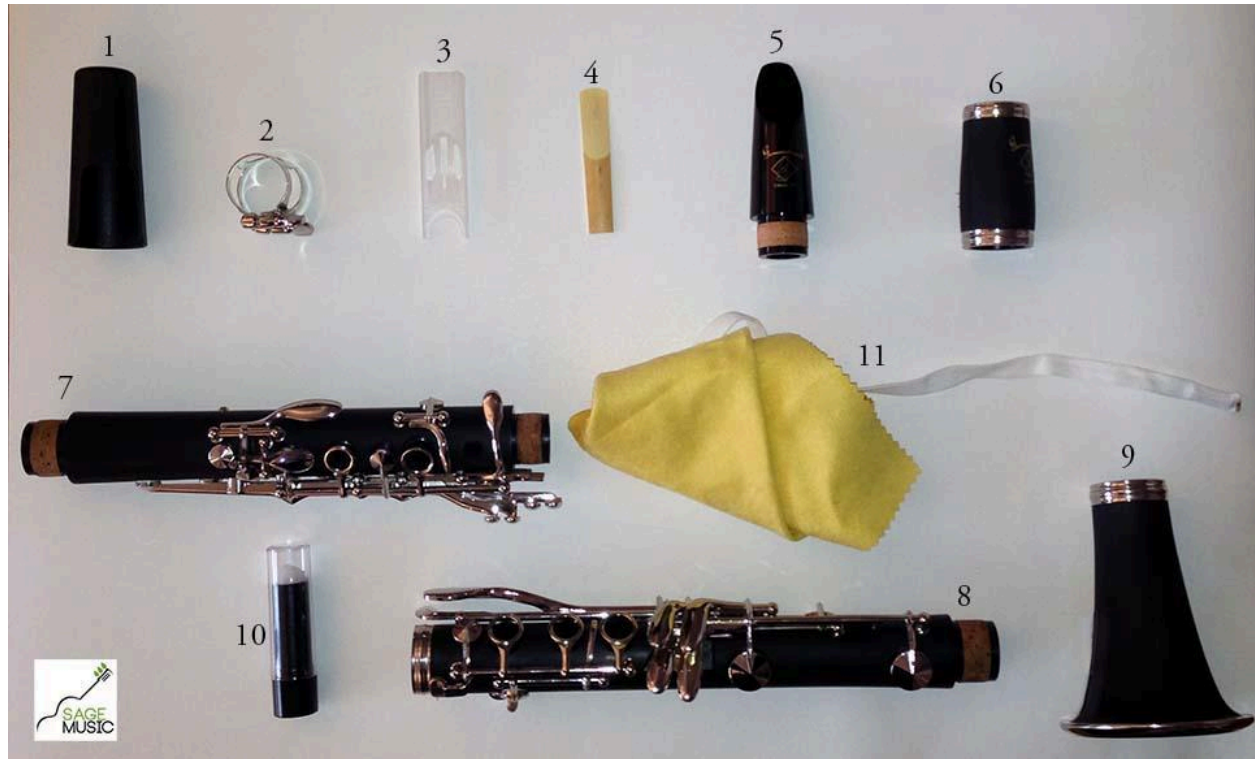
The swab (11)

The mouthpiece cover (1)

Cork grease (10)

Reed case or reed cover (3)

Clarinet case (not shown)



The parts of the clarinet are 1) The mouthpiece cover; 2) the ligature; 3) the reed cover; 4) the reed; 5) the mouthpiece; 6) the barrel; 7) the upper joint; 8) the lower joint; 9) the bell; 10) cork grease; 11) the swab.

How to assemble your clarinet

I'll present these as a series of simple steps so that you can easily follow along.

1. Gently twist the bell onto the lower joint. Always make sure to gently twist each piece into place, don't just push them together. If it feels too resistant, just apply a little lubricant, like cork grease, on the tenons of the instrument. This allows for easier assembly, and will preserve the joints of your clarinet.
2. Twist the upper joint onto the lower joint. When twisting the upper and lower joint together, be sure that the keys of the two joints don't bump into each other, this can damage them.
3. Align the bridge mechanism. You need the bridge mechanism to align between the two joints so that your clarinet will function properly.
4. Twist on the barrel. After the two joints and the bell are in place, twist on the barrel. and then...
5. Twist on the mouthpiece.
6. Align the mouthpiece. Twist the mouthpiece until the hole in the mouthpiece is aligned with the back key on the upper joint.

7. Moisten the reed. Your reed should be moistened with water, or your own saliva.
8. Put on the reed. Place the reed on the mouthpiece so the flat side of the reed is against the mouthpiece opening. Move the reed up or down the mouthpiece until you see just the slightest bit of mouthpiece behind the reed. Ensure that the reed is vertical and aligned with the mouthpiece.
9. Secure the reed with the ligature. Slip the ligature over the mouthpiece and reed. Make sure that the ligature is low enough that it is covering the bark of the reed and not the vamp, which is the carved part of the reed. Tighten the ligature to secure the reed's placement. Your clarinet is now assembled!

Special considerations about the reed.

The most important part of your clarinet is your reed. When you blow air across the reed, the reed vibrates to create your clarinet's beautiful signature sound. Thus, great care must be taken to ensure that the reed is properly moistened, and is protected to prevent cracking, chipping, or any other damage.

How to disassemble your clarinet

During assembly you worked from the bottom to the top of the clarinet. In disassembly you'll do the opposite, working from top to bottom.

1. Remove the ligature. Gently unscrew and remove the ligature
2. Remove the reed. Carefully take off your reed and place it back into its plastic sleeve or reed case.
3. Remove the mouthpiece. Separate the mouthpiece from the barrel using a twisting motion.
4. Store your mouthpiece. Place the ligature back on the mouthpiece, slip the mouthpiece cap on the mouthpiece, and then place them back inside the case.
5. Clean the clarinet. At this point, especially if you just had a long practice session, you should clean your clarinet. Grab your swab, and feed the end with the string and weight into the clarinet's bell; flip it over to pull the string out. Do this as many times as is necessary to dry the clarinet.
6. Remove the barrel. Twist off the barrel from the upper joint and place it in your case.
7. Remove the upper joint. Twist off the upper joint. Again, be mindful so that you don't damage the keys and connecting parts. Place the upper joint in your case.
8. Separate the bell and lower joint. Twist apart the bell and lower joint and place them in your case.

Congratulations, you just learned how to assemble, clean, and disassemble your instrument. Great work!