

# OBOE TIPS

courtesy of  **ELLIS MUSIC**

## ASSEMBLING THE INSTRUMENT

- ▶ A small amount of cork grease should be applied to the tenon corks the first time the instrument is assembled and any time it feels difficult to put together. (Any excess grease can be wiped off once the instrument has been put together.)
- ▶ Use a gentle twisting motion when putting the upper joint into the lower joint, pressing keys as necessary to ensure that parts don't hit one another.
- ▶ Use a gentle twisting motion to put the lower joint into the bell. (If there is a key on the bell, press it down while assembling.)
- ▶ Make sure the upper joint and lower joint key posts are in line with each other.
- ▶ Insert an oboe reed into the receiver.

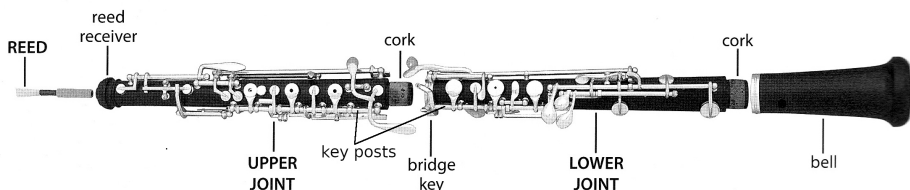


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## CARE & MAINTENANCE

- ▶ Avoid eating or drinking (anything other than water) immediately before or while playing the instrument, or brush your teeth first.
- ▶ Use a swab to remove moisture from inside the instrument when you are done playing. (Do not try to pull a swab all the way through the upper joint or it will get stuck.)
- ▶ Remove the reed after playing and blow out any excess moisture. Store the reed in a reed holder or food-grade plastic container.
- ▶ Store the instrument in its case when not in use.
- ▶ Send the instrument to the Ellis Music repair shop at least once a year for routine maintenance.
- ▶ If you have a wooden oboe, avoid extreme temperature/humidity levels and have the instrument professionally oiled once a year.

## REED NOTES

- ▶ For beginners, a medium-soft (or soft) reed will be easiest for producing a sound. As you gain experience, consider using a stiffer reed for improved tone.
- ▶ Common oboe reed strengths are: soft, medium-soft, medium, medium-hard, hard.



## HELPFUL ITEMS TO HAVE

- Reeds
- Cork grease
- Swabs
- Reed case
- Reed soaking canister
- Oboe stand

**Questions?**  
**Contact Ellis Music**  
**802-234-6400**  
**[www.ellismusic.com](http://www.ellismusic.com)**