



ELLIS MUSIC

Care and Maintenance of Wooden Wind Instruments

A "break-in" period is very important for a new instrument or one that hasn't been played recently. For the first 3 weeks, do not play for more than 15 minutes at a time; for the 4th week, do not play for more than 20 minutes at a time. Always completely disassemble and dry the bore (inside), tenons, and sockets well, store in case, then 3 or 4 hours later play again. NEVER play a "cold" instrument. Let it warm slowly to room temperature. Do your best to avoid any extremes in temperature and humidity. NEVER leave the instrument in the car!

Oiling should be done at least annually. The best time is late fall or early winter. At this time, the instrument should be completely disassembled and oiled inside and out. Occasional oiling of the bore, barrel, and tenon can be done during periods of very low humidity (i.e., winter) or if the instrument has not been played for a week or two. Let it set overnight, then wipe off the excess. Avoid over-oiling the outside, as this can cause pad and cork failure.

The technicians at Ellis Music are always willing to answer your questions!

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