



STAR BAND

CLARINET MAINTENANCE

Part of being a good musician means knowing how to care for your instrument. If you follow the directions below, your clarinet will stay in great shape and play beautiful music for a very, very long time.

DAILY:

YOU WILL NEED: Cleaning swab.

Wipe down your clarinet, inside and out. Remember, the pads of your clarinet do not like to be wet!

- Drop the weighted end of the swab through your instrument backwards, that is, starting with the bell.
- Make sure the swab is not tangled or bunched up as you pull it through, or it may get stuck.
- Pull the swab all the way through your instrument and make sure each piece looks dry on the inside. You may need to swab twice if the first time didn't work very well.
- Carefully place each piece inside the case as you finish cleaning it.

WEEKLY:

YOU WILL NEED: Soft cloth (lint-free), Mouthpiece brush, 1 drop of dish soap, sink.

Wipe down your clarinet, inside and out.

- Take an extra moment to gently wipe down the outside of your clarinet. This will remove excessive fingerprints and help keep the clarinet dirt- and dust-free.

Wash **ONLY** your mouthpiece. (The other parts will break if you get them wet!)

- Squeeze one drop of dish soap into the square hole in your mouthpiece.
- Use your mouthpiece brush to make the soap bubble and scrub away any gunk that has collected on your mouthpiece.
- Wash the mouthpiece and swab under warm water (not too hot!) until the water runs clear. If there are soap bubbles in the rinse water, your mouthpiece still has soap in it!
- Carefully dry everything and put the pieces back in your case.

Remember, your mouthpiece is made of hard plastic. If it accidentally falls on the floor, it could chip and stop working. Handle your mouthpiece carefully!

Always ask your band director if you notice something is not working correctly. **NEVER** attempt to fix something yourself!