

Welcome to the Oboe

Here is a checklist of typical items you will need to get ready to play! Each item already checked is included - **AT NO CHARGE** - with your rental or purchase from **Musical Innovations**. You may also want to check with your music teacher for any additional items he or she suggests:

- | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> at least 3 reeds | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> a cleaning swab |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a water-tight reed soaker | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> cork grease |
| <input type="checkbox"/> your band textbook | <input type="checkbox"/> a music stand |

*(All of these things are available through **Musical Innovations**)*

Some things to remember:

- 1) Please keep your oboe in its case when not in use. Never leave it on a chair, where it might roll off; or standing on the floor, where it might get knocked over. An oboe stand is an inexpensive and very useful item to have, so you can place your instrument on the floor safely.
- 2) Please **do not** let anyone else play your oboe or touch your reeds.
- 3) Each time before you play, soak three reeds for at least 5-10 minutes in water (not in your mouth, as the acid will damage the reeds). Then "crow" them all and choose the one that "crows" the best to play that day. Alternating among three reeds will make your reeds last much longer and sound much better.
- 4) After each time you play, clean the inside of your oboe with your cleaning swabs. Swab each piece separately, from the top down. Then, wipe the outside of the instrument with a soft, dry cloth.
- 5) Use cork grease as needed. **Corks should be slippery so that your instrument doesn't get damaged during assembly.**
- 6) Your instrument will need to have regular maintenance checkups to ensure it remains in proper playing condition. This should be done **at least every six months to keep your warranty in effect.**
- 7) Remember, practice is an essential part of playing an instrument. Practicing is actually "band homework," and should be given the same importance as homework in any other academic subject. Give it your best; you will be amazed how rapidly you progress!
- 8) **Instruments belonging to Musical Innovations cannot be left overnight at school at any time.**

To put your oboe together:

- 1) Always start from the bottom, and work up. Place the bell on the lower joint first, then add the upper joint. Put the reed on last. Use a **slight** twisting motion to assemble or take apart your oboe. Be sure to use plenty of cork grease!
- 2) Be **very** careful when working with the bridge keys, as your teacher will show you. The bridge keys can be easily damaged!
- 3) You will need a new reed at least every two months, or when the reeds are cracked or dirty. **Keep 3 extras on hand at all times!**

If you have any questions or difficulties, please see your band director right away!



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