

Music Express UMG (07) 3849 7088

Clarinet Care and Maintenance

Oiling Wood Clarinets

1. Choose a premium quality oil. Aislyn synthetic bore oil is perfect for this as it is regarded as the best in the world. If this is not available then sweet almond oil is the second best.
2. Use thin cardboard or thick paper underneath all of your pads to protect them from the oil. This is VERY IMPORTANT as exposure to the oil will result in pad damage (which then leads to costly replacements). It is best if you cut/tear the paper/card into small pieces then systematically work your way down the clarinet, lifting every key and ensuring there is protection under each pad.
3. Use approximately 10 drops of the bore oil on a different cleaning swab (chamois or cotton) to your normal cleaning swab. While the paper/card is still protecting the pads, pull the swab through the instrument a few times, feeding it from the bell end of the instrument. You should be able to see a film of oil but there should not be any 'drips' coming down the centre of the instrument.
4. Leave instrument fully assembled with the paper pieces still under the keys and standing upright (on a clarinet stand) overnight. Do not leave lying down as the oil will absorb unevenly.
5. After this period of time, pull the instrument through with your regular cleaning cloth and, if possible, re-case and store in a cool place for a few hours.
6. You are then ready to go!

Key Oiling Clarinets

This procedure is normally carried out in a service but to keep your clarinet in top condition, it really should be addressed every few months.

1. Choose a good quality oil. We recommend Superslick Key and Rotor oil for this purpose. This product is also good due to the needle-like dispenser as the lid of the bottle which allows for easy application.
2. Start at the top joint of the instrument and systematically work your way down the instrument, applying one small drop to each pivot point. (If you don't have a needle-style dispenser on your key oil bottle then you can pour a small amount into the lid/small container and use a toothpick to dip into the oil and apply to the pivot point. It's the same concept, just a lot more time consuming).
3. After oiling all of the points, use a small screwdriver and loosen and tighten each screw on the instrument to work the oil down through the rods and over the pins.
4. With a cotton bud, check over the instrument to ensure there is no excess oil running down on to the wood of the clarinet. The oil won't necessarily hurt the instrument but it is better to try and keep the varnish key oil free.
5. This process should leave your instrument with smoother action.

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