

Caring for our recorders and transverse flutes

Playing-in

When you play your new instrument, changes may occur in the wood due to the moisture of your breath and frequent changes between damp and dry conditions. The sound and the response of the instrument may also be affected by these changes. Therefore begin caring for your new instrument by playing it slowly and continuously. For our recorders we recommend a maximum daily playing session as follows:

1st week - 10 min.

2nd week - 15 min.

3rd week – 20 min.

From the fourth week onwards you can play your recorder carefully for longer sessions. For our transverse flutes we recommend a maximum daily playing session of approximately 20 minutes for the first week and then the time can be increased gradually.

Oiling

Protect the wood of your flute or recorder from changes caused by humidity by oiling it about every three to four months both inside and out (for varnished instruments, please only oil the bore). Oiling also improves the response of your instrument. Please use our special oil mixture ^{*)} or almond oil. Please do not use linseed oil since it hardens and it gums up the bore and tone holes.

When oiling, use a swab stick with a paper towel (discard it after use). You can use a cotton wool bud or Q-tip for the finger holes and the embouchure hole. Make sure that you use only enough oil to moisten the interior bore and the surface of your instrument. The block of a recorder as well as the key pads should not be moistened with oil. Therefore make sure you protect the key pads from getting oil on them. After an absorption period of approximately 8 hours, you can remove the surplus oil with a dry cloth. Make sure that your recorder or flute is dry before oiling it. Do not play it for at least one day before you oil it.

The question, “How often should a flute or recorder be oiled?” cannot be answered generally. This depends on many different factors such as the type of wood, frequency of playing, storage conditions, etc. If all the oil is absorbed by the wood after the 8-hour absorption period, then more frequent oiling is needed.



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Care & storage

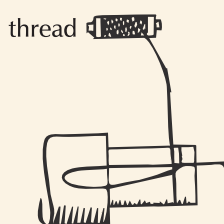
You should wipe your instrument dry after each playing session and before storage. After playing and wiping the instrument out, do not put it immediately into an air-tight case but just let it dry in the air first. If you use our supplied cloth bags, this is not necessary. Never store your flute or recorder in a very dry environment (be careful with central heating in the winter!) or let it sit in a hot car in the summer. A draft is likewise poison for your instrument. If the air is too dry, the danger of cracking increases!

Threaded joints

Our instruments are supplied with thread-covered rather than corked joints. We use thread because the oscillation transmission between the individual parts of the instrument is better with thread than with the strongly damping cork. In addition, threaded joints are easily maintained and adjusted by the player. Since wood changes dimensions under different conditions of temperature and humidity, the joints can become too tight or too loose. In this case you must add or remove thread in order to avoid damage by having a too loose or too tight joint. Please pay particular attention to the uppermost joint (connected to the head piece), since the biggest changes can occur there. This is particularly important with new instruments.

Adding thread: First tie a loop of thread around the tenon and then add windings. Then put the end of the wound thread under the loop, with the help of a needle, if needed, to prevent it from unwinding. For thread, we recommend polyester yarn, since it does not unravel like cotton or silk.

1. Start loop



2. Winding

Wind tight, not too regularly so winding becomes elastic.

3. Fixing

Pull the end of the thread under the winding by using the loop. Cut off the thread ends.



Service

If you have taken care of your flute or recorder and have played it in correctly but it does not play to your liking, we can readjust it. Please do not hesitate to contact us about difficulties with response, intonation or other problems.