Caring for Your Bassoon

The body of the bassoon is made from maple so it is sensitive to sudden changes in temperature and humidity. Such changes can cause cracks in the body as well as distortion that can make assembly of the joints difficult. Please pay close attention to the environment in which the instrument is used and the manner in which the instrument is treated as the bassoon is a very delicate instrument.

Take extra care to prevent exposure to sudden changes in temperature and humidity. Avoid direct, extended exposure to Sunlight, Rain, Heaters, Air Conditioners. Remove all moisture after you have finished playing.

Equipment Required

- Soft cloth swab or lint free handkerchief
- Small soft paintbrush
- Soft cloth or flannel
- Small screwdriver that fits the screws
- Cleaning Papers
- Cork Grease
- Gauze
- Key oil
- Tone hole cleaner or cotton bud
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When putting the instrument down for breaks, etc., use a cleaning swab to remove moisture and dirt, then lean the instrument against a sturdy stand, etc. If you must lay the instrument down, make sure the keys are facing up and the instrument laid down on a stable surface.

Assembling Your Bassoon

Assemble, tune, clean and lubricate your instrument for the first time under the guidance of your teacher. When holding or assembling the instrument, make sure the keys are protected from damage. If the joint is tight or stiff apply a thin layer of cork grease and try inserting into the receiver again. Be careful not to apply too much cork grease. If it is still tight apply a small amount of cork grease to the receiver.

1. Assembling the Tenor Joint & Double Joint:
   Insert the tenor joint into the double joint. Rotate the tenor joint to the right, ensure there is even spacing between tenor joint’s curved hollow lining and the bass joint’s socket.

   If the tenor joint is rotated too far, carefully remove the joint and reassemble. Do not forcibly rotate in the opposite direction as this may damage the keys.

4. Attaching the Hand Rest: Screw the hand rest into its holder stopping at a comfortable position. Take care not to over tighten. Tighten the ring on the screw to secure the hand rest.

5. Attaching the Bocal: Make sure that the whisper key’s pad on the tenor joint is open. First apply some cork grease or suitably moisten the cork, then attach the bocal as shown in the illustration.

2. Assembling the Bass Joint and Double Joint: Assemble the bass joint so the C♯ and E♭ keys do not come into contact with the tenor joint. Insert the bass joint about halfway into the double joint. Rotate the bass joint so that the tenor joint comes into contact with the stopper on the bass joint. Continue to insert the bass joint all the way into the socket.

6. Adjusting the Joint Sections: Body joints are wrapped with string. If the joints fit tight, loosen the string to adjust the fit. (If you don’t have the time to do this, applying some cork grease.) The bocal’s joint section is covered with cork. Make sure cork grease is applied to the cork before assembling. Also, some models use cork on the joints. If so, make sure cork grease is applied to the corks before assembling.

3. Attaching the Bell: As shown in the illustration, gently hold the bell key pad down to raise the connection at the opposite end and insert the bell section into the bass joint.

7. Tuning Your Bassoon The Bassoon is supplied with two bocals of different lengths. Select the bocal according to the pitch you want the bassoon tuned to. When exchanging the bocal to adjust the pitch, pay close attention to the whisper key’s pad. Air will leak if the pad is not properly aligned with the tone hole.

Disassemble the Bassoon: To disassemble the bassoon, follow the steps described below. Also, refer to the Maintenance section on below to properly care for the instrument. Remove the reed and bocal. Remove the bell and bass joints as one section, then remove the bell from the bass joint (the bell can, however, be removed from the bass joint before removing the bass joint from the instrument). At this time, take care not to apply too much force on the B key. Remove the tenor joint. Remove moisture from the double joint’s narrower tube and clean each of the parts.
Maintenance

After Playing: Follow the procedures given below and make sure moisture and dirt is thoroughly removed from the inside of the instrument after playing.

Tenor Joint Maintenance: As shown in the illustration, block one end of the tenor joint and blow air through the other to blow out any moisture that may be in the tone holes. Run a cleaning swab (for the tenor joint) through the tenor joint’s interior to remove moisture.

Double Joint Maintenance: Remove moisture collected in the U-Tube from the narrower side of the tube. Please take note that placing the C# tone hole face down can cause moisture to accumulate. If moisture is present in the double joint’s wider tube, remove the U-Tube and clean the tube thoroughly. Also, make sure to remove moisture from the A key hold if any is present there. Remove the U-Tube cover. Remove the nuts holding the U-Tube in place and carefully remove the U-Tube from the bassoon.

Bass Joint and Bell Joint Maintenance

A cleaning swab (for the double joint) should be run through these sections about every other month to remove dirt from the instrument’s interior.

Instrument Maintenance

Use a soft cloth once or twice a month to wipe the instrument’s surface.

Key and Pad Maintenance: Use a polishing cloth or silver cloth to wipe the key surfaces. Apply a small amount of key oil between the key and key posts about once a month. Wipe off any excess oil. Use a tone hole cleaner to remove the dirt or dust that accumulates between the keys and body. Use a cleaning swab to remove dirt and moisture from the pads.

Storing the Instrument

The case should always be used for storing the instrument after playing and for transporting. Be sure to remove the reed and bocal and store them properly. Do not put anything in the case that could place pressure on the instrument.

Please ensure that the Instrument case is labelled with your full name, current roll class and contact telephone number.

- The replacement of all disposable items needed in the maintenance of the instrument is the responsibility of the hirer. These include key oil, reeds, cork grease etc.
- Before any major repairs are done, Ms. Dietz must check the damage and authorize repairs to the instrument. All repairs should be carried out only by a qualified repair technician.
- Before returning to HGHS on completion of hiring for full refund of the deposit, it must be inspected for damage by a qualified repair technician, who will provide an inspection certificate. The instrument must then be brought to Ms. Dietz in person for inspection along with any certificates of inspection.

To keep your instrument in optimum playing condition, have it cleaned and inspected by a qualified repair technician annually.

Source: www.yamaha.com
See also: http://www2.yamaha.co.jp/manual/pdf/wind/english/bassoon/bassoon_om_English.pdf