Caring for Your Wood Body Oboes

Wooden oboes are made of grenadilla wood, a material more susceptible than plastic to changes in climate. Sudden shifts in temperature and/or humidity cause subtle changes in wooden instruments, potentially causing the body to crack or joints to swell. The oboe, due to the wall thickness of its body, is more delicate than any other woodwind instrument.

The following care is recommended to extend the life and maintain the quality of your 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
- Reed case with 3 – 5 reeds
- Small screwdriver that fits the screws
- Soft cloth or flannel
- Cleaning Papers
- Cork Grease
- Gauze
- Tone hole cleaner or cotton bud
- Reed case with 3 – 5 reeds

**Assembling Your Oboe**

Assemble, tune, clean and lubricate your instrument for the first time under the guidance of your teacher.

**Applying Cork Grease**

Cork grease applied just prior to assembly promotes an easy, proper fit of oboe joints. A thorough, even coat on all cork joints provides protection and extends cork life. It is a good idea to wipe off old cork grease before adding new.

**Assembly**

To connect the bell to the lower joint, hold down the B♭ key on the bell section and gently twist the lower joint into place until the key bridges are aligned. Pay careful attention to the bridge keys; they are easily damaged. Connect upper joint and lower joint in a similar fashion, with a gentle twisting motion. Again, pay careful attention to the bridge keys. To move them into alignment hold upper joint keys lightly, making sure the bridge key is up. Align upper joint bridge key on top of lower joint bridge key.

**Yamaha model YOB-211:**

Attach the bell to the lower joint. Connect upper joint and lower joint in same manner as above.

Never lay your oboe with keys facing downwards, whether assembled or not.

**Placing the Reed in the Upper Joint**

Gently hold the reed in your mouth for a few minutes before putting it on your oboe. Apply cork grease to the reed cork and gently insert the reed into receiver.

**Tuning Your Oboe**

Pitch is affected by temperature, so warm up the instrument before playing by blowing air through it. To tune, adjust the reed on the body. The length you pull out or push in depends on individual preference and method of playing.

**Caring for the Interior of Your Oboe**

**Removing the Reed**

Carefully dry the reed with a clean cloth and place it in a reed holder. Never leave it on your oboe.
Cleaning the Body and Pads  Draw the cleaning swab through the body and remove all moisture. An oboe swab comes in two sizes: a narrow one for the upper joint and a large one for the lower joint and bell section. Tenons tend to collect moisture, especially at the upper and lower joints. Wooden oboes will begin to split in this area, so be careful to remove all moisture with gauze.

When drying a pad, insert cleaning paper between it and the tone hole and lightly press down.

Caring for the Exterior of Your Oboe

For daily care, wipe the entire length of the body with a soft cloth, being careful not to apply pressure to the keys. Wipe down the keys, taking care not to scratch them or damage the pads.

Cleaning Use a tone hole cleaner, cotton bud or small paintbrush to clean the space under and between the keys.

Regular Maintenance  Because the oboe has the most complex structure of all wind instruments, minor temperature and/or humidity changes as well as exterior pressure can affect the wood and key mechanisms. An annual visit to your local repair technician for oiling the bore and regular adjustments is required.

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 store it 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 reeds, cork grease, cleaning swabs 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/oboe/Oboe_JEGFS_English.pdf