

Updating Your Equipment

As a high school student, you should now be considering updating your clarinet to correlate with your growing clarinet skill set. Here is all that needs to be considered:



Your Clarinet – When you began playing clarinet, you either bought, rented, or borrowed a plastic beginner's clarinet. You should consider purchasing a new, intermediate or professional clarinet made of wood. Playing on a wooden instrument will allow for a richer sound, better intonation control and many other benefits. Never fear! The money spent on your plastic clarinet will not go to waste. You can still use your plastic clarinet for the marching band season.

Here are a few brand considerations:

- ◆ Selmer (Displayed below)
- ◆ Yamaha
- ◆ Back

Ligature & Mouthpiece – Now is the time to consider replacing your old plastic mouthpiece and rusty ligature with some new models! The type of mouthpiece you have will affect your overall sound, intonation, and the responsiveness of the reed. It also does not help if your ligature is not holding your reed in place. Here are a few options you can consider for your next ligature and mouthpiece!

Ligatures

- ◆ Metal Bonade Ligatures – Costs around \$25.
- ◆ Rovner – Cost anywhere from \$25 to \$30 depending – Are made of neoprene, so they fit any mouthpiece!
- ◆ Vandoren Optimum – Costs around \$50 to \$70 – Have tone plates that can be switched around to allow for tone color and characteristic sound to be changed.

Mouthpiece

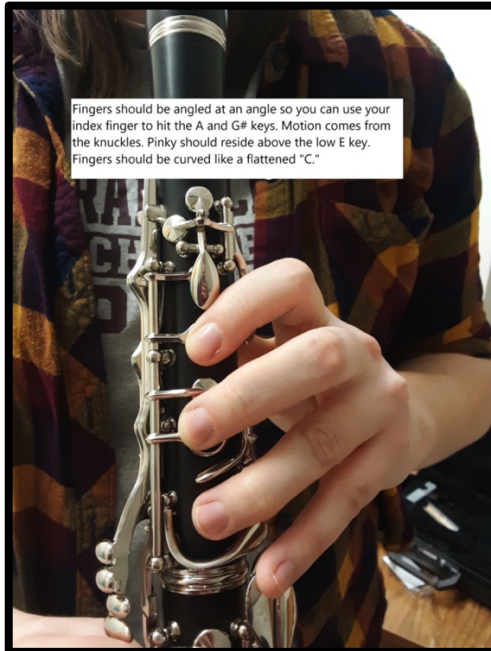
- ◆ Vandoren M30 – Costs around \$80 to \$100. Are famous for their beautiful sound and are made of hard rubber.
- ◆ Mouthpieces from the Vandoren Series 13 – Costs around \$80 to \$100. Are specifically built to play in tune with the American standard tuning agreement of A=440. Allows for better tuning. Also made of hard rubber.



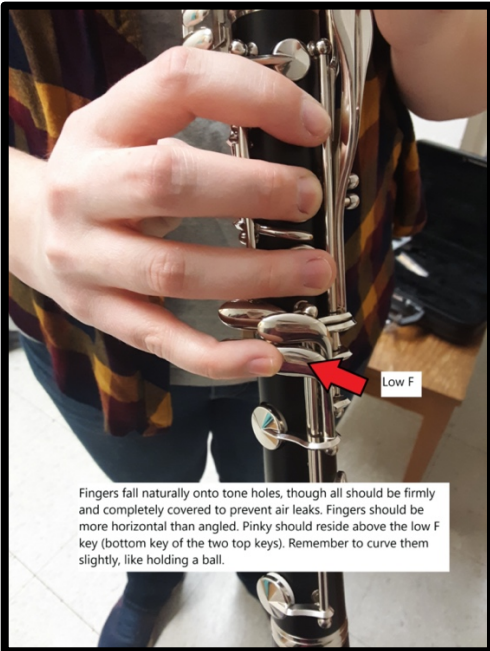
Holding and Playing Clarinet

Welcome to 5th Grade Band! Here is a quick step-by-step guide to holding and playing the clarinet.

Left Hand



Right Hand



Embouchure



Breathing

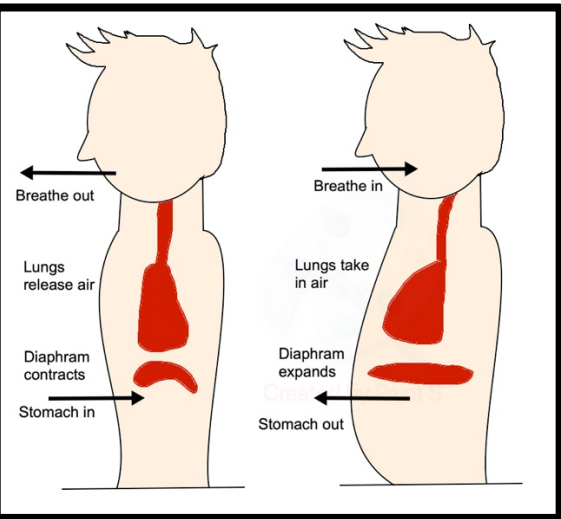


Diagram created on Paint S for Mac by Gretchen Heegeman

A Clarinet's Guide to Intonation

As with all instruments, intonation is important. There are many things to take into consideration when it comes to intonation.

Temperature

- ◆ When your clarinet is warm, it will tend to play sharp.
- ◆ When your clarinet is cold, it will tend to play flat.



Dynamics

- ◆ When you play soft, your sound will tend to be sharp.
- ◆ When you play loud, your sound will tend to be flat.



Also keep in mind...

- ◆ Solid embouchure – Mouthpiece enters at a 35-degree angle and there is no air-leakage.
- ◆ Proper air support – Cold, fast air. Take full breaths where stomach should be visibly expanding and contracting.

Common "Out of Tune" Notes
F (Flat)
F# (Flat)
High G (Sharp)
Throat Tones (G to Bb)

Adjusting

- ◆ Tune your clarinet on middle C and open G. Adjust by moving the barrel in to raise the pitch and pull the barrel out to lower the pitch.
- ◆ Making your lips firm will raise pitch.
- ◆ Dropping your jaw and loosening your lips will drop the pitch.
- ◆ There are alternate fingerings to certain notes that you can implement in order to get your notes to be more in tune.



Adjust length of clarinet at the barrel by **twisting** the barrel to push in or out.