

General Maintenance

1. Oil each key once or twice a year with light oil such as 3 in 1 oil. Either use an oil applicator or thin item such as a clarinet screwdriver and put one drop in every rod connection.
2. Dust the keys before oiling with a medium size paintbrush so you don't get dust in the joints. Or spray with compressed air.
3. Swab out your clarinet regularly.
4. Blow out excess water from tone holes and make sure the pads are dry before putting the clarinet away. Use cigarette paper or something else very thin and absorbent so not to change the indent on the pad.
5. Oiling the bore with bore oil is optional; it won't hurt but may not do any good either. Make sure you cover the pads first if you do. (Oil the Backuns monthly on the inside and outside with one or two drops of his oil.)
6. Keep the cork joints greased so they don't tear, never force them on. If the cork gets to compressed use dental floss, transparent Scotch tape, plumber's tape or masking tape to make the cork thicker.
7. Have your clarinet checked yearly for leaks and adjustments so you can avoid having it overhauled too often. Preventive maintenance!
8. Use Tarn-x jewelers cleaner, vinegar or soap and warm water to clean your mouthpiece with a small soft toothbrush.
9. NEVER carry your clarinet without a cap on the mouthpiece.
10. Let the clarinet sit opened for a several minutes before playing it if it is very cold.
11. Avoid keeping it near the heat.
12. Take off the register key at least once a year and clean the rod with a pipe cleaner and small screwdriver but don't scrap hard. Clean out any dirty tone hole with a pipe cleaner as well.