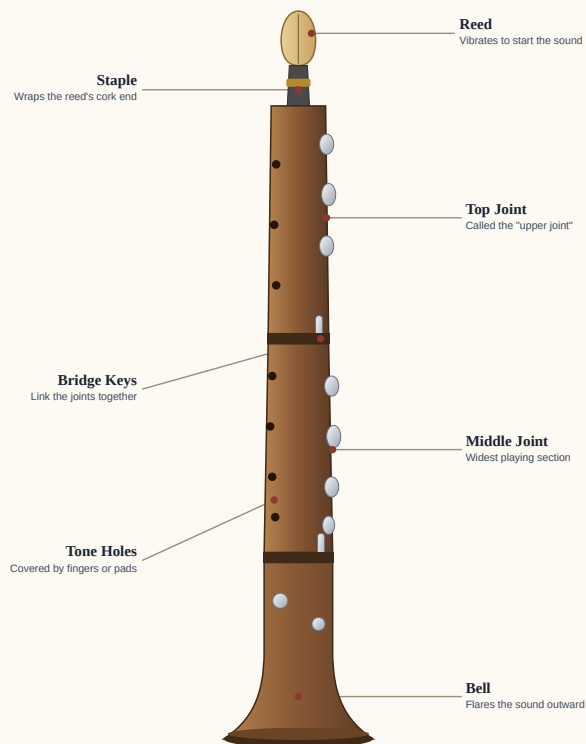


Meet Your *Oboe*

Every part has a job — get to know how yours goes together.

Parts of the Oboe

top to bottom



Good to know: The spots where joints connect are called **tenons**. They're wrapped in cork, so always wipe on a little cork grease and guide — never force — the pieces together.

Words to Know

Bridge Key A key that stretches across a joint so both pieces move together.

Tenon The cork-wrapped end where one joint plugs into the next.

Cork Grease A light wax rubbed on cork to help joints slide together smoothly.

Bore The narrow tube running through the inside of the oboe.

The oboe has a complicated key system, and unlike some other instruments, its keys are completely **exposed**. That makes them delicate — easy to damage if you're not careful. Handle your oboe gently and it will last a long time.

Putting Your Oboe Together

1 Connect the bell and the middle joint
Line up the bridge keys and guide them together gently so you don't tear the cork. Hold the bell firmly, but press the middle joint mostly with your fingers on top, away from its delicate parts. Wipe cork grease on the tenon first — and never force a tight joint.

2 Add the top joint
Hold the bell in your right hand and carefully connect the top joint to the middle joint, guiding the bridge keys so you don't damage the cork. You can lift a key slightly if it's in the way.

3 Insert the reed
Add a little cork grease to the reed's cork tube, then push it in with a gentle twisting motion — this keeps the cork from fraying.

Remember: a visual walk-through from your teacher is always more helpful than words alone — ask for a demo the first few times you assemble your oboe.



VIDEO DEMO

Watch Before You Try

Scan for a short video on **assembling the oboe** — great to watch once before doing it yourself.

Oboe Care *Cheat Sheet*

Simple habits that keep your oboe healthy — and playing well.



Swab After You Play

Use a small turkey feather to spread the moisture collected inside the bore (the narrow tube). It dries faster this way, and the soft feather won't scratch the inside.



Oil the Keys

Oil the moving parts of the key mechanism about three times a year. Go slowly and carefully — keep oil off the pads and cork.



Protect a Wooden Oboe

Keep it away from sudden temperature changes and extreme heat or cold — even great wood can crack. Ask your instrument's maker how often to oil the bore; beginners on plastic oboes can skip this for now.



Never Leave It Lying Around

Don't set your oboe on a chair or balance it on a music stand. Keep it in your hands, or put it back in its case.

Posture, Reed & Hand Position

How You Hold It

Players don't all agree on the best angle — it usually comes naturally with practice. It also depends on your bite: if your lower jaw sits back, hold it closer to your body; if it sticks out, lift it up and away.

Reed Blade Placement

Some teachers angle the reed slightly instead of lining it up straight — it may help the reed last longer. Try to always place the same blade against your upper lip; no two blades are exactly alike.

Hand Position

Oboe tone holes sit farther apart than on flute or clarinet, so fingers stretch more. Keep fingers arched and slightly spread, with your right thumb placed so it supports the oboe without cramping your hand.

Keep in mind: your angle, reed placement, and hand position will all keep adjusting as you grow and practice — that's completely normal. If something feels uncomfortable or awkward, that's exactly the kind of thing to bring to your teacher so you can experiment together and find what fits you best.

