

### Warming up the Oboe (Mar 2016)

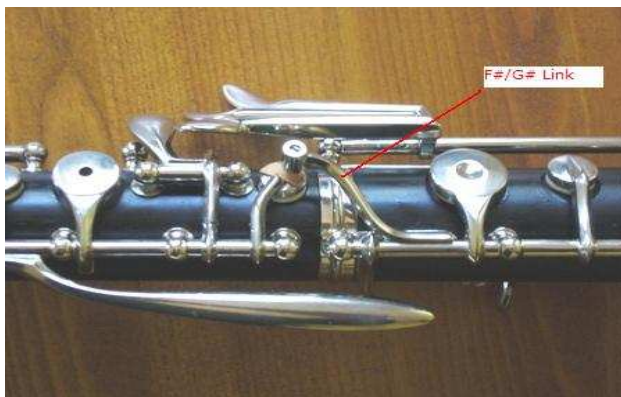
Warm up the Oboe by holding the top-joint and the bottom-joint in each of your hands for 4 or 5 minutes before assembling the instrument, **do not warm an Oboe by blowing into it** – this will just cause condensation problems as well as initially distorting the tuning.

### Assembling the Oboe

The most common cause of damage to an Oboe is careless assembly - so check that your method of assembly does not put undue strain on the mechanism.

Because there is no standard mechanism it is not possible to outline a method suitable for all Oboes – the methods below are for student instruments with only two sets of 'linking' keys (a link from the right hand first finger key on the bottom-joint to the G# key on the top-joint, and a link from the Bell key to the bottom-joint 'rocker' key). Refer to the photos below.

A) RH finger 1 (F#) link to top-joint G#.



B) Bell key link to Bottom-joint rocker key.



### Method 1 – for players with a strong grip

1. Ensure the top-joint lower tenon is adequately greased with cork grease.
2. Grip the bottom-joint in your right hand at the tenon end avoiding touching any of the keys.



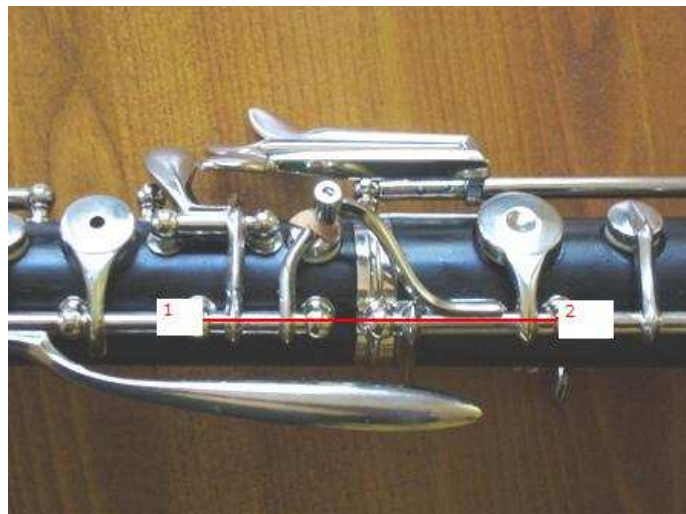
3. Grip the top-joint in your left hand - grip at the end where the reed is inserted and avoid touching any of the keys.



4. Carefully work the bottom-joint socket onto the top-joint tenon with a twisting motion.



5. Align the two joints so that the 'spine' of the left-hand action keys on the top-joint (1) is in alignment with the 'spine' of the right-hand action keys on the bottom joint (2).



6. Ensure the bottom-joint tenon is adequately greased with cork grease.

7. Grip the middle of the bottom-joint with your left hand so that your fingers arch over the long 'feather' key assembly and press on the pillars of the 'short' F key.



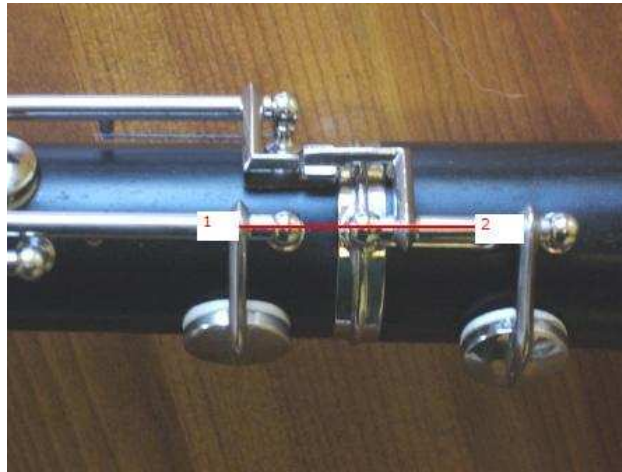
8. Grip the bell with your right hand with your thumb holding closed the bell key.



9. Twist the bell socket onto the tenon on the bottom-joint.



10. Align the two joints so that the 'spine' of the B key (1) is in alignment with the 'spine' of the bell key (2).



11. Ensure the reed staple cork is adequately greased with Oboe cork grease.

12. Insert the reed into the top-joint with a twisting motion.

## **Dis-assembly**

1. Remove the reed from the mouthpiece and put it in its holder.
2. Reverse the steps of the assembly method. It can sometimes be more difficult to dis-assemble an Oboe than to assemble it so it could be easier to reverse the steps of assembly Method 2 below.
3. Use Oboe mops or a small silk "pull-through" to swab out the top-joint and bottom-joint of the instrument and then, if possible, leave the instrument in its case with the lid open to "air" for 5-10 minutes to prolong the life of the pads.

If the instrument has to be packed away often without being left to air then place "pad savers" in the top and bottom joints - they will soak up the moisture left in the instrument.

## **Method 2 – for players with a weaker grip**

1. Ensure the tenons are adequately greased with cork grease.
  2. Grip the bottom-joint in your right hand so that your palm rests on the bottom two adjacent keys holding them shut, and your fingers arch over the feather and rocker key assembly and rest on the body of the instrument.
- A) Locating the palm above the bottom two keys.    B) Gripping the bottom-joint with the right hand.



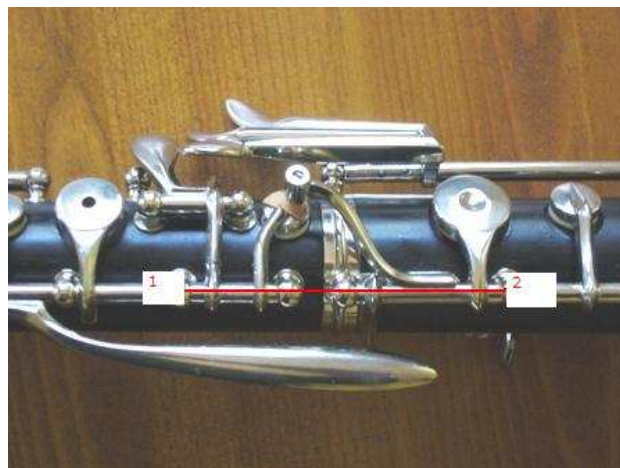
3. Grip the top-joint with your left hand so that your 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> fingers arch over the upper octave key and rest on the body of the instrument.



4. Carefully work the bottom-joint socket onto the top-joint tenon with a twisting motion.



5. Align the two joints so that the 'spine' of the left-hand action keys on the top-joint (1) is in alignment with the 'spine' of the right-hand action keys on the bottom-joint (2).



6. To complete the assembly follow steps 6 to 12 of Method 1.

## **Dis-assembly**

1. Remove the reed from the mouthpiece and put it in its holder.
2. Reverse the steps of the assembly method. It can sometimes be more difficult to dis-assemble an Oboe than to assemble it so it could be easier to reverse the steps of assembly Method 2 below.
3. Use Oboe mops or a small silk 'pull-through' to swab out the top-joint and bottom-joint of the instrument and then, if possible, leave the instrument in its case with the lid open to 'air' for 5-10 minutes to prolong the life of the pads.

If the instrument has to be packed away often without being left to air then place 'pad savers' in the top and bottom joints - they will soak up the moisture left in the instrument.

**To return to home page click: [www.stevetadd.co.uk](http://www.stevetadd.co.uk)**