

## OBOE REED TIPS

### SOAKING THE REED

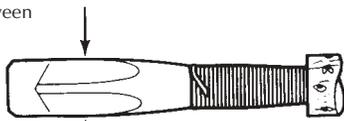
Dip the reed in water, shake off the excess water and let it stand for about two minutes before playing on it. It is not necessary to soak the reed by letting it stand in water. Saliva works well too.

For the first few minutes of your playing, gently squeeze the wet reed open or shut as needed.

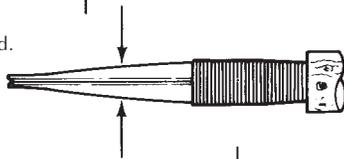
The edges should be closed when the reed is wet and being played.

1/32" is the proper opening for a wet oboe reed.

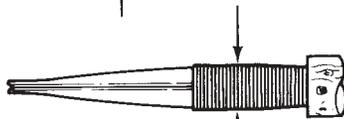
Gently squeeze here between thumb and first finger while inhaling air back through the reed to make opening larger.



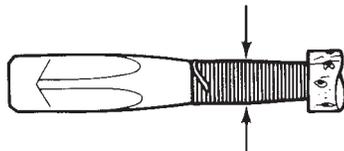
Squeeze here to close reed.



If opening is not large enough, use a small pair of pliers here. Squeeze gently.



If opening is not small enough, use pliers here. Squeeze gently.



### REED CASES

It is important to have a reed case that supports the reed in such a way that nothing can damage the delicate tip. It should also allow for air circulation around the reed to keep it dry when not in use. There are commercial reed cases available or cases can be made by the student. Do not use the plastic tubes in which some commercial reeds are packaged as reed cases.

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## Assembly and Care of the Oboe



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## ASSEMBLY AND CARE OF THE OBOE

Always soak the reed while putting together (See section Soaking the Reed.)

Cradle the upper joint in the left hand. Place the right thumb on the E key of the second joint and carefully maneuver the two parts together, gently pushing and twisting in a clockwise direction until the bridge mechanism is properly aligned. Be careful not to bump the "arm" above the F# key.

Place the right thumb on the bell key. This holds it up and out of the way while pushing and twisting bell into the lower joint. (Left handed people should reverse hands in the assembly procedures.)

The reed is put in last. It will work best when pushed all the way to the stopping shoulder.

When putting the oboe away, put the reed into the reed case first. To separate the oboe, reverse the assembly procedures. Always clean out the oboe with a soft cloth swab until *slightly* snug. The bore is conical, therefore it is extremely important not to get the cloth swab wedged in the smaller area of the joint.

## GENERAL CARE

When the oboe is not being played it should be kept in the case to prevent dust from collecting in the mechanism or prevent possible damage from the accidental dropping or bumping. AVOID PUTTING THE CASE IN PLACES WHERE IT IS SUBJECT TO EXTREME TEMPERATURES.

If at any time you feel the instrument needs repair, take it to Meyer Music for this to be done properly. Doing it yourself can damage the instrument.

**1**



1. Cradle the upper joint in left hand.

**2**



2. Place the right thumb on the E key of the second joint. Carefully maneuver the two parts together, gently pushing and twisting in a clockwise direction until the bridge mechanism is properly aligned.

**3**



3. Place the right thumb on the bell key. Push and twist the bell into the lower joint.