



Beginner's Toolkit: Oboe

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3:32 Reeds

- Buy medium soft or medium strength *reeds* to begin
- You will probably only use this strength for 2-3 weeks then move to medium hard strength
- Reeds* only last for 10-20 hours of playing time which is usually a month for beginners
- Have three *reeds* that you rotate through: they will last longer
- Get rid of the tube plastic container the *reed* comes in: store *reeds* in a reed case
- If you must use the plastic tube, poke a hole in the lid so mold will not grow on your *reed*
- Soak the *reed* in water before you play: Do NOT soak it in your mouth
- Dip the *reed* in water and let it lay on your desk or stand
- It is best not to let the *reed* sit in the water for a long time

4:36 Embouchure

1. OOOH
2. AHhh
3. Close lips

- Breathe and pillow reed between lips then release air through the *reed*
- Use the corners of the mouth to change the pitch of the *reed* up and down

6:20 Putting Together the Oboe

- Use cork grease on both corks
- Put *bell* and *middle joint* together
- Put *top joint* onto the *bottom* sections being careful of the *keys* that extend over the cork section
- Never grab the *keys* of the joints with any pressure
- On the *top joint* with the *keys* facing outwards: the most important *keys* to line up are the ones on the right hand side, and the left hand side does not matter as much
- Do NOT twist the corks too much: be gentle!
- Put *reed* in the *reed well* in the *top joint*: line up the flat side of the reed with the *keys*
- Always push the *reed* all the way in until it stops

12:13 Hand Positions

- Left hand on top
- Right hand on bottom with thumb under the thumb rest
- Use tall fingers

13:00 Make first sound

- Play three note tunes

14:00 Disassemble

- Rock the *reed* back and forth to remove: Do NOT twist!
- Put *reed* in reed case
- Swab the oboe!