



Beginner's Toolkit: English Horn

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- Use a neck strap: elastic is best
- You can use an oboe/clarinet neck strap if you connect a hair tie to the thumb rest
- You can purchase an English Horn specific neck strap
- If your thumb rest has no connecting ring, use a neck strap with the leather connecting piece

3:10 Reeds

- Let the *reed* sink into the lower lip slightly more than you would on Oboe
- If your *reed* has wire, you can choose which side of the *reed* goes on the lower lip
- If your *reed* is handmade, one blade might be shorter than the other
 - The short side must go onto the lower lip
- The wire should move up and down the *reed* easily: Do NOT put the wire up high on the *reed*
- The sides of the *reed* must always close
 - The wire should not be used to adjust the opening of the *reed*

6:00 Choosing a Bocal

- Bocals* are labeled in general with numbers
 - Low numbers are shorter and higher numbers are longer
 - Shorter plays higher, while longer plays lower
- Do NOT use a *bocal* that sags in pitch when you play a two finger C in diminuendo
- If you have no choice in a *bocal* and have one that does sag, just play as well as you can with a centered air flow and embouchure

9:00 Difficult Notes

- Low E is the most difficult note on English Horn, in general
- Always use lots of air when playing English Horn
- Practice familiar Etudes to use your air correctly

11:28 Fingering Adjustments

- For high B-flat, add either the ring finger of the left hand or the *low C* key
 - The English Horn high B-flat will be flat without this fingering adjustment
- The half-hole motion is more exaggerated than on Oboe
 - Practice this in slow motion: Play C, open the half hole, then place the rest of the fingers for D

Have FUN!