

## Lesson 1 Clarinet

Your clarinet comes in 5 parts



Between each joint is a section of cork. It is very important not to damage these joints.

Rubbing a little **CORK GREASE** on each joint will make it easier to put together and stop the cork from cracking.



Holding the mouthpiece in one hand and the barrel in the other, join the two together by **TWISTING** the barrel onto the mouth piece joint like screwing the lid onto a bottle. **NEVER** just push the two parts together as this will damage the cork.

Your Clarinet needs a **REED** before you can make a sound.

Carefully remove your reed from the cases and gently suck the thin end.

Next place the **LIGATURE** over the mouthpiece and slide the thick end of the reed between the ligature and the mouth piece. Make sure the flat side of the reed is next to the flat side of the mouth piece.



The ligature should be below the “cut of the reed” (see diagram).

Line the reed up with the top of the mouthpiece and tighten the screws.

## Blowing the Clarinet – Embouchure

- 1 place your bottom lip over our bottom teeth and rest the reed on your lip.
- 2 about 1 cm of the reed should be in your mouth – too much and you will squeak – too little and you won't get any sound at all!
- 3 place your top teeth on the top of the mouth piece.
- 4 seal your lips around the mouth piece so that no air can escape
- 5 smile a little – keeping your lips sealed around the mouth piece
- 6 hold the mouth piece at about 45 degrees and blow.
- 7 don't squeeze too tight or no sound will come out.

## Exercises

- 1 take a deep breath and blow gently into the clarinet.

Write down how long you blew a note for each time you practice.

1.....2.....3.....4.....5.....6.....7.....

By gently touching the tip of the reed with your tongue you can stop the sound. This is called tonguing.

- 2 take a deep breath and blow gently into the clarinet touching the reed to stop the sound several times

Write down how many times you can stop the sound with your tongue **without** stopping blowing in between.

1.....2.....3.....4.....5.....6.....7.....

- 3 listen to the sound your make – can you play quietly? Can you play loudly? Without squeaking!