

Assemble, clean and put away my instrument safely

The bassoon comes in many parts. The main sections are the boot joint (sometimes called the butt), long and wing joints, and the bell which sits on the top. Putting it together takes a bit of practice.



Take the boot joint, and put the corked end of the wing (smaller section) into the smaller hole of the boot.



Next, take the long section and place the end with the cork into the other hole of the boot joint. **Be very careful that you don't crunch the keys together.**

The two joints are secured together with a lock key.





Then put the bell onto the top of the long joint, and line up the metal link.



The hand rest is screwed into the side of the boot joint.



Finally, the corked end of the crook is placed into the small hole at the top of the wing joint.

When lifting the bassoon, always have a hand at the bottom of the instrument, as the side joints can easily slip out of the holes of the boot joint. **Never lift from the bell.**

Know how to clean my instrument

You should clean your instrument after each practice session, to avoid getting water clogging up the keys and sticky pads. If water is left at the base of the bassoon for a long time, it can start to rot the bottom section. You need a pull through cleaner with a weight at the end. Drop the weighted end into the large hole of the boot joint. Holding the large hole at 12 o'clock, then turn the boot joint upside down, and the weight of the cleaner will come out of the smaller end. Then pull the cleaner through.



Putting the instrument away

Start with the crook first so it does not get damaged. Then the hand rest.

Undo the lock key and it's easiest to pull the whole of the long joint and bell out in one section. Pull them apart.

Then the wing section.

When putting the instrument back in the box, be careful that each part is put away in the correct section and carefully close the lid of the case. Make sure that the latches of the box are fully secure before lifting the case.

