PHILIPPE BOLTON, RECORDER MAKER



MAINTENANCE TIPS FOR WOODEN RECORDERS

Here are some suggestions for keeping wooden recorders in good condition.

1° PLAYING IN

Wood needs to become accustomed to warmth & dampness caused by playing. You must therefore play in your instrument progressively, not exceeding the following time limits:

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1st	week	10	minutes	per	day
2nd	week	15	minutes	per	day
3rd	week	15	minutes	per	day
4th	week	30	minutes	per	day

After this period you can increase the time by reasonable steps.

From the beginning you can play all the notes, paying attention to tone quality and intonation.

2° CARE OF THE RECORDER

Do not expose the recorder to excessive heat or cold, or to sudden temperature changes. Do not therefore leave it near a radiator, in direct sunlight, in a parked car... etc. If it is cold, warm it in your hands before playing to limit condensation.

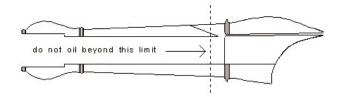
AFTER PLAYING...

Carefully wipe out the bore with a cloth or piece of chamois leather. Then let the instrument dry out completely (especially the windway which cannot be wiped) before closing its case. It is a good idea to use a stand for this, so that the pieces are held vertically.





If the different parts become impossible to separate after a long playing session because the joints have become damp do not attempt to force them apart since this could cause damage. Just wipe the inside as shown above and let them dry out completely. This can take several hours, or even a day or two. The instrument will be easy to take apart once it is dry. To avoid this happening again take off a little thread or grease the joint.



IF THE WINDWAY BECOMES BLOCKED BY CONDENSATION...

Since the instrument has been oiled during making, condensation may form in the windway after a few weeks. This can be easily removed with detergent (water and washing-up liquid in equal parts + a little alcohol). Either take the block out and apply the liquid onto the windway and block surfaces using a Q Tip (see the document on advanced operations on the windway), or, without removing the block, use a dropper to let it flow into the window end while blocking the beak end with one finger. Wait for a few moments, then blow it out backwards through the beak while blocking the socket.



OILING...

Oil the recorder every 3 months with linseed oil or every month with almond oil. Use a mop, a piece of cloth fixed to a rod with a slit in the end, or even a large feather to put oil inside the bore. You can also oil the labium sparingly with a Q tip or small paintbrush but NEVER the block and windway. Do not overoil. Let the oil soak into the wood for a few hours, then wipe away ALL the excess that has not been absorbed.

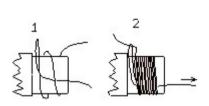




Let the oil soak into the wood for a few hours, preferably keeping the instrument in a vertical position on a stand, then wipe away **ALL the excess** that has not been absorbed, particularly in the bore and the holes.

THREAD JOINTS...

You can repair or adjust thread joints yourself. Description of the sufficient to add a little thread. If they are too tight you can take some off. For this you can use buttonhole silk which you wax with beeswax. Simply pull the thread across the wax. It should then stick to the joint. Be careful not to put on too much thread or there could be a risk of splitting the instrument. Check this by carefully trying to assemble the recorder as you go along. After much use it can become necessary to change the joint completely. Cut away the old thread without touching the wood, and wind on some new waxed thread (cf drawing below). Begin by laying a loop lengthwise along the tenon, continue wrapping the thread around it, keeping the layer as regular as possible. As before, be careful not to put on too much. To secure the joint just pass the end through the loop and pull it back under the joint.





Thread joints that have been correctly fixed as shown above can be greased with vaseline or with a mixture of equal parts of vaseline and beeswax melted together in a jar heated in boiling water.

Unfixed thread will unwind if greased.

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