

Flute Care & Maintenance

JUST
Flutes

Knowing how to look after your flute can ensure a lifetime of playing enjoyment. Here are our top tips.

Assembling your flute

1. Make sure that all joints are clean, free of all dirt and grease.

Repairer's Tip *Never use any grease on a metal flute!*

2. Hold the body on the socket above the mechanism, and hold the headjoint below the lip-plate. Slide the pieces together with a twisting (not rocking) motion.

3. Hold the footjoint on the body tube below the mechanism and the body in the same place as before. Line up the footjoint so that it goes onto the body perfectly straight and not at an angle.

Be careful not to put any pressure on the mechanism as you put the pieces together: the majority of repairs our workshop see are due to bent keywork caused when putting the instrument together.

Repairer's Tip *Tight or loose-fitting joints can lead to secondary issues such as bent keywork (from gripping too hard) or dents (from a joint falling off). If the joints on your flute are too tight or too loose, you should take your flute to a specialist repair technician – it shouldn't cost much and will probably save you money.*

Cleaning your flute

We recommend using a lint-free cleaning gauze wrapped around a cleaning rod to remove the condensation from the inside of your flute. Swabbing out your flute after each use will extend the life of the pads, mechanism and headjoint cork and reduce instrument maintenance.

Pro Tip *A wood or plastic cleaning rod won't scratch the inside of your flute like a metal one can.*

Remove fingerprints from the flute using a fine microfibre polishing cloth. Occasionally use a silver cloth to remove tarnish, but you should not use one every time. Never apply liquid silver polish.

To help with sticky pads, you can try using a "Pad Saver". We don't recommend using cigarette papers, as these can fray the pads.

Recommendations for maintenance

Your flute should be cleaned, oiled and adjusted approximately once a year by a qualified repair technician.

You should keep your flute in a safe place where the temperature is stable: the heat from a radiator is not good for pads. Your instrument is best stored in its case when you are not using it. Keep your case clean, and do not store cleaning accessories inside the case. You can keep an anti-tarnish strip in the case, to reduce the speed of tarnishing. A gig bag or case cover can help protect the flute if you drop it or it is impacted in any way

