

Care & Maintenance of Your Flute

Good care and maintenance of your flute can ensure a lifetime of playing enjoyment.

Assembling your flute

1. Make sure that all joints are clean, free of all dirt and grease. **Never** use **any** grease!
2. Hold the body on the socket above the mechanism, and hold the headjoint below the lip-plate. Put the pieces together with a twisting (not rocking) motion.
3. Hold the footjoint on the metal below the mechanism and the body in the same place as before. Line up the footjoint so that it goes onto the body straight and not at an angle.

Caution Be careful to not put any pressure on the mechanism as you assemble the flute. Bent keys due to sloppy handling are the single biggest repair that our technicians see!

Repairer's Tip Tight or loose-fitting joints can lead to other problems. 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.

Swabbing the inside of 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. You can extend the life of the pads, mechanism and headjoint cork and reduce instrument maintenance by swabbing out your flute after each use. To help with sticky pads, you can try using a "Pad Saver". We don't recommend the use of cigarette papers, as these can fray the pads.

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

Maintaining the finish of your flute

Fingerprints should be removed 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.

Storing your flute

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.

Recommendations for maintenance

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

