

Care & Maintenance of Your Piccolo

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

Assembling your piccolo:

1. Make sure that the tenon cork is smooth and well lubricated with cork grease. This will help to ensure a smooth and easy fit.
2. Grasp the body on the wood above the mechanism, and grasp the headjoint below the embouchure hole. Put the pieces together with a twisting (not rocking) motion. Be careful not to put too much pressure on the mechanism as you put the pieces together.

Tip Never put your finger in the embouchure hole to lift the headjoint out of the case. This is a critical area, and needs to be protected.

A note of caution If it is difficult for you to put the headjoint on the body joint, you should take your piccolo to a specialist repair technician: if too much pressure is applied when assembling the piccolo, it is possible to damage the headjoint or mechanism.

Swabbing the inside of your piccolo:

We recommend using a silk oboe swab with a string and weight to remove the condensation from the inside of your piccolo. You can extend the life of your pads and reduce instrument maintenance by swabbing out your piccolo after each use. To help with sticky pads, you can try using a "Pad Saver".

Fingerprints should be removed from the mechanism by using a fine polishing cloth, very slightly dampened with water. Do not use silver cloths or silver polish on your piccolo. 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.

Protect your piccolo from temperature extremes, especially when you are going from a warm building to cold temperatures. The quick contraction that can occur may contribute to a crack in the wood. We recommend that you insulate your piccolo case (e.g. keep it inside a lined case cover and/or gig bag) when moving between temperature extremes.

Warm up the headjoint with your hands before blowing into the embouchure hole. This also helps to prevent cracking.

Recommendations for maintenance:

Your piccolo should be cleaned, oiled (both the wood and mechanism) and adjusted approximately once a year by a qualified repair technician.

