

FLUTE CARE

REMEMBER YOUR FLUTE IS DELICATE

Only hold the flute in your lap or in position to play. Never try to do other things with it. When not playing always store your flute in its case. Never leave your flute on a bed, chair or couch or someone might sit on it! If you put your flute down on a table, the keys should be facing up so any moisture in the flute doesn't drip onto the pads. Do not put anything in the case which might put pressure on the instrument.

PUTTING YOUR FLUTE TOGETHER

Wipe any dirt off the joints. Hold each piece without touching the keys. Gently wiggle together. If the keys are pressed with any force, key adjustments might be affected.

BRUSH YOUR TEETH

Brush your teeth before playing especially after eating or food particles will blow into your flute and onto the pads causing them to become sticky. If you can't brush, then at least rinse out your mouth with water.

SWABBING OUT YOUR FLUTE

Always do this right after playing or if any dripping occurs during playing. Excessive moisture can make the pads swell and shrink or become sticky. Your swab cloth should be soft and absorbent like an all-cotton handkerchief. Be sure the cloth covers the rod so you won't scratch the inside of the flute. The cloth is best kept outside the case. If there is absolutely no other alternative, fold it as thin as possible and lay on top of the flute in the case.

CLEANING THE OUTSIDE OF YOUR FLUTE

Only use rubbing alcohol to clean dirt and grease off the silver. Never use silver polish on your flute. Polish can damage the pads and cause the rods inside the keys to rust and stop moving. Clean the tenons and sockets (ends of each piece) with rubbing alcohol when dirty or gummy. Take care when wiping close to the pads so as not to fray the edges. Use a Q-tip dipped in rubbing alcohol to clean embouchure hole occasionally. When dust accumulates between the keys, use a watercolor brush to sweep it away.

STICKY PADS

Even if you take good care of your flute you might get a sticky pad when the weather is very humid. Put the glueless side of a sheet of cigarette paper under the key and press firmly (do not pull it out). The paper will absorb any moisture on the pad.

YEARLY CHECK-UP

After one year's playing on the flute many small changes may have taken place in your flute's pads and adjustments. When pads leak, notes sound fuzzy or don't speak quickly and low notes become more difficult. It is recommended to have a Clean, Oil & Adjust done once a year. The silver can be cleaned at this time. All the keys are taken apart, cleaned and re-oiled. Pad leaks are treated. Missing bumpers are replaced. Everything is checked to make sure it is working properly so the flute is in its best playing condition.