

Clarinet Equipment and Pedagogy

ABA 2010 Mike Croom

EQUIPMENT

I. MOUTHPIECES

(Common)

Tip Openings Become gradually more Open L to R

The HS2* is in between the 11.6 and the B45

Close		Med Close	Med		Med Open	Open
✓ HS *	✓ 5RV	❖ 5RVL	✓ C85 - 115	❖ VD 11.6	✓ HS2*	✓ 5JB
✓ M 13	✗ M15			✗ M 30	❖ B45	
	✓ HPR				✗ B40	

Legend

- ✗ Not tried
- ✓ Tried
- ❖ Like

No Tip Info

✓ Fobes Nova CF+	❖ Fobes Debut	✓ Garrett D	❖ Gennusa Mezzo
✓ Fobes Nova 3L		❖ Garrett DL	✓ Gennusa GE*

Bass Clarinet

✓ VD B44/45	❖ Selmer C*	✗ VD B50	✗ Fobes	✓ Garrett
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Use softer reeds (M,MS)

Use peg and strap

Mouthpiece Refinishing

Robert Umiker

1548 E Hope St.

Fayetteville, AR 72701

(\$20 + \$2 RTN postage)

Hard Rubber Only

Johnston like facing – med reeds

Adjusts for warp, nicks, resistance, focus, and pitch

Generally, more resistance equals better tone. Standardization is a good start, but some students will need a different tip opening. Closer tips work with medium hard reeds/wider tips work with medium reeds. Increase reed strength or tip opening to correct chirps. Keep an assortment of good mouthpieces for students to try.

II. REEDS

Lurie 3 and a half (BEG), 4 (ADV)

Vandoren 3

V12 – 3, 3 and a half

V12's generally play better than traditional Vandorens

Vandoren cane is dense. Lurie cane is soft. Vandoren 3 equals Lurie 4 in strength. V12 have thick backs and thin tips. Soft tips equal flat pitch. Hard tips equal sharp pitch.

Match the reed to the mouthpiece and player. Best sounding reed is a good Vandoren. Roughly half a box of reeds will play at first.

Reed Rules

1. Thumb Trick
2. Brief Soaks
3. Reed Keeper
4. Number and Rotate
5. Fine sand paper to balance
6. Burnishing
7. Resurfacing
8. Slow Break-ins
9. Clipper
10. Remove and Dry
11. Move up to strengthen – move down to soften
12. Save reeds that did not play.

III. INSTRUMENTS

Buffet B12, E11, R13, GreenLine
Old Leblanc, Selmer, Yamaha Products
(Noblet 40 and 45, Signet, Yamaha INT Wood)

Wood horns can blow out in 10 years due to bore changes. Less expensive instruments may be unable to be repaired and may put the student at a disadvantage.

Long top joints and short barrels present pitch problems

IV. BARRELS AND BELLS

- A.
Moening (Buffet)
Scott
Backun (select)
Backun Bells (select)
Duplicate original equipment

IV. TUNING

- B.
Pull the Barrel for Open G
Pull the Middle for Low C, High G
Pull the Bell for Long B & C
Adjust Key Height for Throat Tones or
Add Fingers to Lower Pitch
Over Blowing Causes Flat Pitch

66mm is the gold standard, but some instruments require a 65mm. Wood barrels can blow out in three years due to bore changes. Avoid mixing brands (bore taper).

V. LIGATURES, STRAPS, CAPS, CUSHIONS

- Rovner (fabric) Blayman mp cushion
Luyben (plastic) Leblanc Lip Savers
Bonade (metal) Tight ligatures left on the mp can cause the mp to warp.
Beg (metal, add felt)

Claricord Strap (standard thumb rest)

BG strap (hook and eye)

Straps reduce fatigue and are a must for small players.

Use plastic mp caps.

VI. TOOLS (Teacher)

- Sani Mist
Screwdriver Set
Bore Brush
Bore Oiler
Fine Sandpaper
Tuner
Metronome

Swabs (student)

- MM Ruler
Reed Resurfacer
Tuning Fork
Reed Clipper
Tuning Rings
WW MP Brush
Spring Hook
Cloth or Silk – cut to fit
MP Mouse
MP Cloth (handkerchief corner)
Avoid pulling instrument swab through mp.

VII. REPAIR PROBLEMS

Worn Joint Corks
Incorrect Barrel
Bridge Key adj
Key Height adj

Crow's Foot adj
Dry Bore – Cracks
Worn Pads, Springs Off
Swollen Joints

PEDAGOGY

(Fix the Sound First)

VIII. FUNDAMENTALS

A. Embouchure

Say 'OOOHEE'

Anchor upper teeth

Chin down – U shape

Horn angle 30 to 40 degrees

Look straight across at the music

Firm diaphragm

Arch back of tongue upward

One/half red over bottom teeth

Lips like rubber band

Fast intense air

Embouchure Drill (Barrel and mp = concert F#)

(Mouthpiece alone = concert C)

B. Tonguing

Top of tip of tongue to bottom of tip of reed

Syllables TE Regular, DE Legato, NE Fast

C. Hand Position

Fingers Slightly Curved

Use Pads of Finger Tips

Left Thumb at 45 degree angle

Right Thumb – T. Rest in Front of Knuckle at Base of Nail

IX. CORRECTING TONE PROBLEMS

Use more mouthpiece to correct an undertone

Rule Out

Embouchure

Instrument

Repair Problems

Mouthpiece

Reed

Air Support

X. MATERIALS

Tryout Music and Scales - Focus on Hardest, but practice ALL.

Solos, Duets and Sight Reading Excerpts

PROCEDURE

Play a lot with student. Play a little for student. Listen to student play alone. Encourage student to practice.