

Cleaning Guide for BASSOON

1. BOCAL

- a. Materials – bocal cleaning brush, some dishwashing liquid, warm running water (Do this at the sink.)
- b. Procedure
 - i. Wipe the cork grease from the bocal with a paper towel.
 - ii. Turn on the water and adjust it so that it is warm. Run water through the bocal, starting at the corked end. Take care not to get too much water on the cork.
 - iii. Take the bocal away from the water and run the brush through it, beginning at the corked end. Run water through the bocal again.
 - iv. Put **one drop** of dishwashing liquid on the brush. Run it through the bocal again. Run water through the bocal again. Continue alternating the brush and the water until the brush no longer comes out dirty. **Do not add any more soap!**
 - v. Finish with running water through the bocal until the water comes out clear.
 - vi. Gently shake and blow the water out of the inside of the bocal. Dry the outside with a clean, soft cloth. Be sure to put fresh cork grease on the cork before assembling the bassoon.
 - vii. Rinse the brush thoroughly. Allow it to dry before putting it back in the case.

2. BOOT, LONG JOINT, TENOR JOING, BELL

- a. Materials – clean, soft cloth; child’s soft toothbrush, artist’s paint brush, or woodwind key brush; Q-tips; paper towels; swab
- b. Procedure
 - i. Swab the boot once and the tenor joint bell several times. Look through the bore where you can. If the inside is not clean, repeat the procedure until it is clean.
 - ii. Using the paper towels, clean the cork grease from the tenons on each joint. Clean the tenon receivers in the same way. Use a Q-tip to clean the bocal receiver. You may wet the Q-tip with water (nothing else!) to do this.
 - iii. Use Q-tips to clean each tone hole (there are three on the bottom joint and three on the top joint). If the “gunk” is stubborn, lightly dampen the Q-tip with water.
 - iv. Use a brush or the Q-tips to clean dust from the areas around and under the keys and rods. Take care not to move any springs.
 - v. Using the soft, clean cloth, wipe the outside areas to remove all fingerprints and smudges. Wipe the keys with this cloth also. **Do not put anything (oil, Vaseline, rubbing alcohol, etc) on the outside of the bassoon!**
 - vi. Put fresh cork grease on the corks when the cleaning process is complete.

3. THE CASE

- a. You should clean the case each time you clean your instrument. Remove any unnecessary items and find them another home.
- b. Thoroughly vacuum the inside of the case before you return the cleaned instrument to it.
- c. Be sure to store all items (reeds, swab, cork grease, pencil) in the spaces provided so that they do not get under the keys. Put nothing between the top of the case and the bassoon.