

Zephyr
band instruments

CARE & MAINTENANCE
Flute

zephyrbandinstruments.com

Zephyr Band Instruments – 3100 Airway, Suite 119 – Costa Mesa, CA 92626 714.429.2391



Care and Maintenance

Flute

The flute is probably the most fragile of all the band instruments. It is very delicate having many keys that move up and down covering the tone holes. These keys are made of soft metal and can easily be bent. The most common problem that occurs with flutes is bent keys. If a key is bent even just slightly it will not cover or seal the tone hole completely and therefore the flute will leak air. Consequently the flute will play poorly or not at all.

Remember - The biggest enemy of any flute is the player's hands. Anyone can make a flute unplayable in a matter of seconds and may not even know they are doing it. If you do not assemble and disassemble your flute properly YOU WILL DAMAGE YOUR FLUTE.

Also please remember that bent keys are Never Under Warranty.

Do you know how to assemble a flute???

Can you assemble and disassemble a flute **CORRECTLY**, so that you don't cause any damage to the keys? Surprisingly many players can not.

Any flute can be put out of commission in a matter of seconds if the keys get bent and put out of alignment. The easiest way to bend the keys of a flute is to assemble and disassemble it the wrong way. Assembling a flute correctly is to avoid touching the keys. **Its simple, If you don't touch the keys, you can't bend the keys.**

Assembly

We must first know how to identify the 3 different parts of a flute.

1. The piece that touches your mouth (no keys) HEAD JOINT
2. The largest piece with the most keys is the BODY
3. The smallest piece is the FOOT JOINT

Flute Care and Maintenance



Before we go any further, you must know which is your **RIGHT** hand and your **LEFT** hand. Take a moment and figure this out first.



The *long part* is the body of the flute. Pick up the body by the edges. Always pick up pieces by the edges, never by the keys.



Hold the body of the flute in your **LEFT** hand. Put your left hand where the writing or brand logo is. This is a good spot to hold it because there are no keys here. You can therefore squeeze it as hard as you want and you will not hurt the flute.

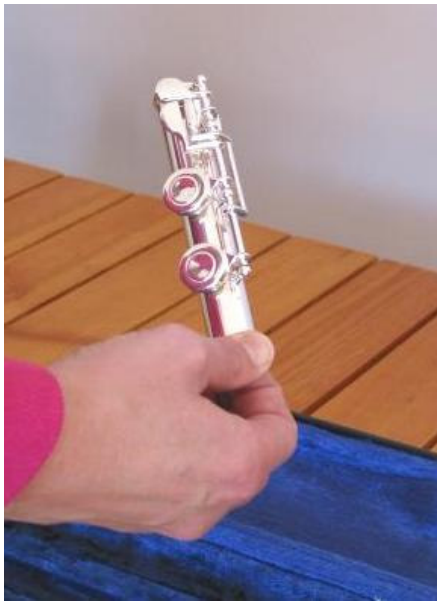
Your **LEFT** hand **DOES NOT MOVE** from this spot during the whole assembly or disassembly procedure.

Pick up the headjoint in your **RIGHT** hand and place it into the body of the flute. Do not push it in as far as it goes. Leave about a quarter inch of the unplated part of the headjoint showing. This is where you tune the flute. So if you push it in all the way, you will be too sharp.



Line up the embouchure hole with the keys, so that they are in line.

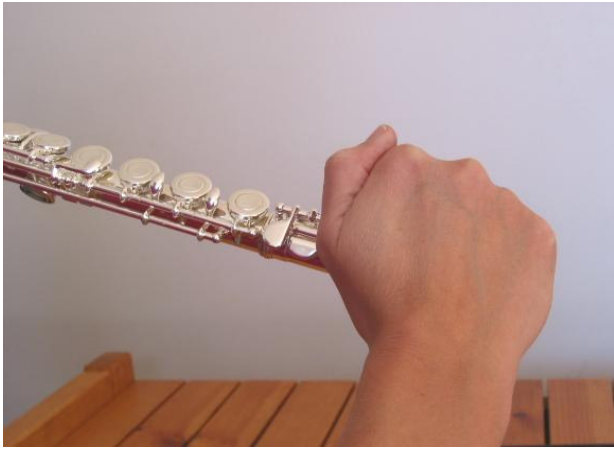
Next pick up the foot joint from the side closest to the edge of the case in your **RIGHT** hand. Remember your **LEFT** hand does not move from its location.



Turn the footjoint around and let gravity slide it down in your hand until you are clamping the two large keys by the edge of your palm. This is very critical. You must have your **THUMB UP** above the keys and not around the bottom of the piece. This is so that when you assemble the footjoint and your hand slips you do not bend the keys below your palm. If your thumb was wrapped around the footjoint you would bend the keys when you twist on the footjoint. In fact the C# key on the footjoint is the most common key to get bent on a flute.



Here is the correct position of your hand over the footjoint.



Line up the headjoint so that the post that looks like a little round ball closest to the edge of the footjoint lines up with the **center** of the closest key on the body of the flute.

Disassembly

You disassemble the flute exactly the same way as you have assembled it but in reverse order. Reverse order means that whatever you did last you do first. Remember you hold the flute in your **LEFT** hand where the writing is and your **LEFT** hand never moves from this spot during the whole operation.



Hold the flute again in your left hand where the writing of the brand-name is located. Remember your left hand does not move from this spot during the whole operation.



Clamp the foot joint with you right hand and **your thumb on top.**



Turn the foot joint around in your right hand and place it in the case.



Now, with your right hand you remove the head joint.
Your left hand still has not moved from its original location.



Now you grab the flute with your **RIGHT** hand and release your **LEFT** hand for the first time during the whole operation. Your **LEFT** hand now holds the flute at the opposite end of the body.

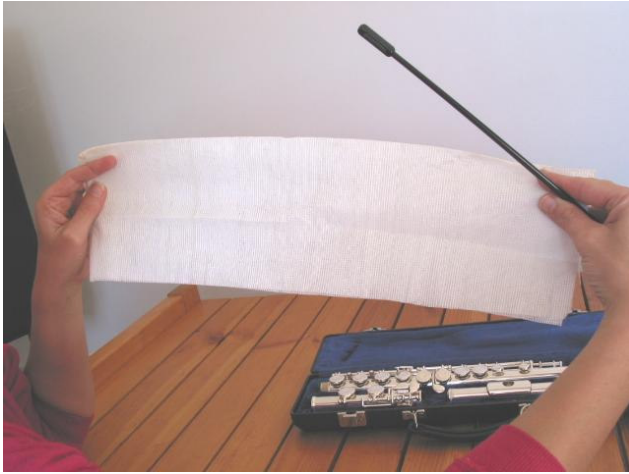


Place the body of the flute in the case. You have assembled and disassembled your flute without touching any of the keys on the body and only clamping the keys down on the footjoint. You have not bent any keys and your flute remained in perfect alignment. **Congratulations.**

Cleaning (actually its drying)

The outside of flutes are silver plated and are susceptible to tarnish and corrosion. Fingerprints (acid your body produces) can corrode silver finishes. It's important to use a SILVER polishing cloth to clean your instrument after use.

Before putting your flute in the case - dry your instrument. Flutes are dried by removing the moisture from the inside. The pads of a flute do not like moisture.



Take a cloth and fold it in half lengthwise and thread one of the edges through the hole in the cleaning rod.



Wrap the cloth over the top of the rod so that you get the cloth all the way in as far as the rod can reach.

Now wrap the cloth tight all the way down the rod and hold the cloth at the end of the rod in your **RIGHT** hand. This way the cloth will never bunch up and get stuck in your instrument.

Flute Care and Maintenance



The most important part of the flute to dry is the headjoint because it gets the most wet. Push the rod all the way in, twisting it as you move it in and out.



If you play for a longer period then also dry the body of the flute by first inserting the cleaning rod from one side and then the other side.



Unravel the cloth, fold it in half and then in half again. Very neatly.



Now place it in the case on the headjoint side because there will be less keys on that side. You don't want to squish any keys. Now you are all done.