

# CLARINET ASSEMBLY

## ASSEMBLING THE CLARINET

- 1 Always make sure the case is facing the correct direction before it is opened. If your case doesn't have a logo or label on the top, add a sticker or nametag so you always know which way should be facing up.
- 2 Before assembling, if needed, apply cork grease to the tenons of your clarinet.
  - Remember, a little cork grease goes a long way! Apply a small amount to each piece of cork and then rub it around the cork with your finger to ensure even distribution.
  - Keep in mind that cork grease is not necessarily needed every day. On average, you'll want to use cork grease every 2-3 days.
- 3 Assemble your clarinet from the bottom to the top, starting with the bell and lower joint, then the upper joint, then the barrel, then the mouthpiece. Use a twisting motion to get the pieces together.
  - If the pieces feel very tight, you can add some more cork grease.
  - Be very careful of the keys as you assemble your instrument. Though they're made of metal, they can bend easily. Try to grip from the body of your clarinet and avoid putting too much pressure on keys as you put the pieces together.
  - Be careful of the bridge key as you twist the lower and upper joints together. Press down the key rings on the upper joint as you add it to the lower joint to ensure the two parts of the bridge key don't knock into each other during assembly. When you're done, check to make sure the two parts of the bridge key are aligned properly.



## ASSEMBLING THE MOUTHPIECE/REED/LIGATURE

- 1 As you're putting the rest of your instrument together, wet your reed in your mouth or some water for about 30-60 seconds.
- 2 Slide your ligature onto the mouthpiece. Slightly lift up the ligature on the mouthpiece and slide the reed behind the ligature.
- 3 Once the ligature is on, make final adjustments to your reed and tighten your ligature.
  - The reed should be centered on the mouthpiece, both at the top and bottom.
  - The tip of the reed should be just below the tip of the mouthpiece. If assembled correctly, you should be able to see a thin strip of the mouthpiece above the reed.
  - Make sure the ligature is not too high or low. The top of the ligature should be just below the top line on the mouthpiece or just below the cut portion of the reed.