



# BASSOON BASICS

## Assembly

Assemble in the following order:

Boot joint → Wing joint → Long joint → Bell → Bocal → Reed

Always hold and adjust the bocal on the curved part, never the straight part

The wing and long joints are NEVER to be held or inserted simultaneously

## The Seat Strap

A seat strap (only) is used when sitting

The bassoon connects to the seat strap on the right side of the body

The seat strap should be only 1-2 inches from the front edge of the chair

## Hand Position

The base of the left index knuckle holds the weight of the bassoon

The right hand sits inside the crutch and bears no weight

Tone holes are sealed with pads of the tips of the fingers

Fingers are curved and able to move freely like a hinge

Left thumb rests on the whisper key; Right thumb rests on the B-flat key

## The Crutch

Positions and braces the right hand

Many different sizes and styles exist to accommodate different bodies

Can be played 'bulb up' or 'bulb down'

Not everyone uses one

## The Reed

Soak in fresh water (never saliva) only as long as it takes to assemble your instrument

The entire reed is soaked

Store somewhere dry with ventilation

## Forming an Embouchure

The corners are engaged as in a "kissy face", both lips gently cushion the front teeth

Insert the first third of the reed into the mouth

The weight of the embouchure gently rests on the top of the reed leaving the bottom loose

## Cleaning

Blow through the bottom of the reed and bocal (seperately) to remove excess moisture

Swab only the wing and boot joints, always starting on the bigger end