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