



4247 ROCKLIN ROAD  
ROCKLIN, CA. 93677  
(916) 502-6953  
bill-sactownzebops@att.net

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## Do It Yourself Musical Instrument Care (Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Saxophone)

- When placing your instrument back into its case, make sure it fits in all the correct indentations. Do not force your case closed, as it most likely means the instrument isn't properly placed.
- Remove neck straps from your instrument before putting it in its case.
- Always use a tenon plug when storing your saxophone. This keeps the instrument from moving around in the case.
- Always pick your instrument up by the body; never lift by the neck or keys. Also, be careful not to bend keys while assembling your instrument.
- Please avoid eating, drinking sugary liquids or chewing gum prior to playing your instrument. Always rinse your mouth with tap water
- Internal moisture can cause pads to crack or mildew. Always pull a clean, dry swab through your instrument to remove any moisture at the end of each practice, lesson, and performance prior to storage.
- Gently wipe key pads of moisture prior to storage.
- Apply a very small amount of cork grease. If liquid the size of a ball point pin head. If solid out of a tube, tap it on your finger and apply to cork joints when needed and rub into the cork. A little goes a long way.
- Never store the reed on the mouthpiece, but store in a reed holder. Replace chipped, cracked or softened reeds.
- Clean mouthpiece once a week (remove ligature and reeds) in luke-warm, soapy water and dry completely before storing.

- Periodically check key mechanisms for loose screws. If a key feels loose, take it to local repair certified specialist.
- Tune-up is required every 12 months by a certified specialist.
- See next pages below for Instrument diagram.