

Why do my oboes sound like THAT?!?!

1. Hand Position

Keep fingers rounded – especially the right and left ring fingers

Left hand first finger

Left hand third finger

Right hand third finger

Wrists should not bend – they should be straight from the knuckles to the elbow

Right thumb is under the thumb rest at the side of the nail

Left thumb is directly below the octave key and points to 2 o'clock

2. Embouchure

Teeth should be as open as possible while keeping the mouth shut.

Pull corners in like a drawstring purse

Breathe in an oval

The bottom lip is spongy and the reed rests on the bottom lip. Avoid rolling the bottom lip in too far

To crow or not to crow

Only $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$ of the reed in the mouth

Catch the reed with your tongue

Head up – Oboe out (right above the knees)

Once you make sure everything is correct with the embouchure, and if your students are making a great sound THEN you can talk about vibrato. (at least wait until 2nd semester or later)

3. Pitch and Placement

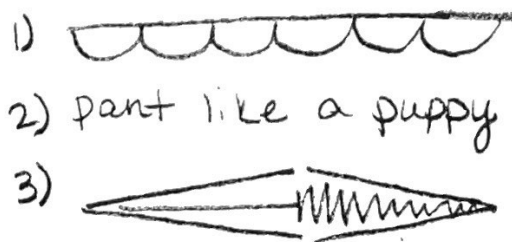
Play like you are singing the phrase.

Too much reed = sharp

Too little reed = flat

Supported sound = in tune

wimpy air = flat

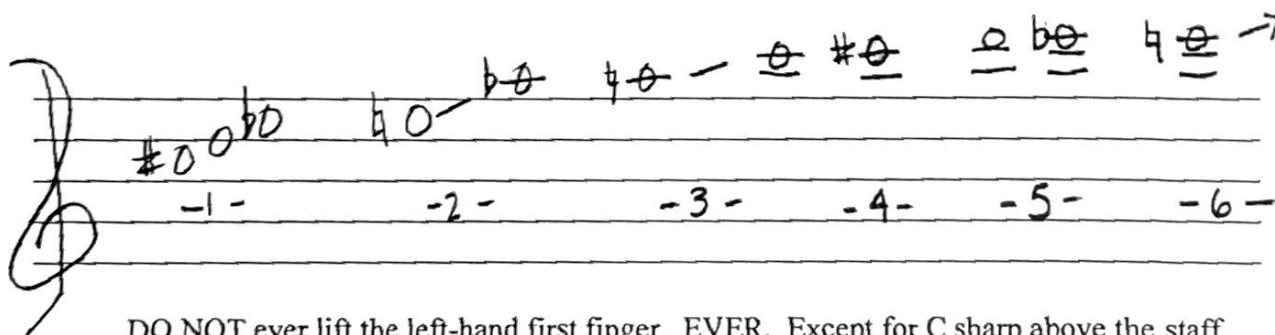


4. Fingerings

There are three fingerings for "f". Right, Left, and Forked. They should be taught in this order and used in this order.

Forked F and the fingering charts – fingering charts in general

- 1) ½ hole – c sharp, d , and e-flat
- 2) back octave – e, f, f sharp, g, a-flat
- 3) back AND side octave – a, b flat, b and c
- 4) no first finger – c#
- 5) ½ hole – d, e flat
- 6) ½ hole AND back octave – e, f, f sharp, g



DO NOT ever lift the left-hand first finger. EVER. Except for C sharp above the staff.

DO NOT allow them to pick it up when going to or coming from a hal-hole note.

MAKE THEM DO IT THE RIGHT WAY EVEN THOUGH IT MIGHT BE HARDER!

DON'T GIVE UP!

5. Care of the Instrument

Buy swabs that have pulls on both ends.

Students MUST have a reed case. The cases that reeds are sold in are for shipping purposes only. They are not for permanent storage. Reed cases should hold 3-6 reeds, and only buy the ribbon type cases – not the pegs.

Keep keys facing up when the instrument is on the lap.

No Lipstick/Lip gloss.

6. What kind of instruments should I buy?

7. Reed Sources

Handmade reeds from pros or reputable double reed stores are the best, easiest to play, and probably the most expensive, but you might be surprised!