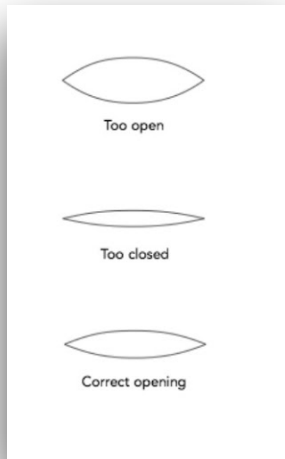


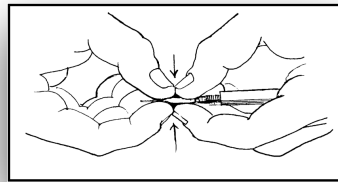
Trouble Shooting for the Oboe Common problems and how to fix them

Reeds:

- Majority of problems with beginner oboists come from poor care of reeds
- Reeds should be soaked in FRESH water for 30-60 seconds before playing (just enough to cover cane)
- Store bought reeds (such as Emerald and Jones) tend to be VERY flat. Ways to fix that:



- Carefully pinching the reed closed (after soaked), pinch down ONLY if the reed opening is too big. Reed openings should resemble a football not a soccer ball.



- If reed is too closed, carefully pinch the sides open while looking at the opening. DO NOT pinch hard, reed will crack.
- Many store bought reeds are mass produced by machines and do not have quality control over the scrape and cane. It is best to find a handmade reed maker to supply your reeds. (The cost may be a bit higher, but well worth it)
- Response issues can also come from reed not being inserted all the way down

into reed well. Reed should always be placed as far down as it can into reed well to avoid creating air pockets.

Embouchure:

- Both lips should be rolled over teeth
- Equal pressure on top and bottom lip (many students like to smash the reed into the bottom lip)
- Corners of the mouth should be in and chin should be flat. Lips should resemble the opening of a drawstring bag. DO NOT BITE ON THE REED

Fingering Tips:

- Half hole is often forgotten about. Motion on left hand should resemble opening and closing a door knob. Do not lift finger to open and cover the half hole. (C# and D, in both higher octaves, make sure the half hole is open!)
- Many method books use the “Forked F” fingering with the addition of the Eb key on the right hand. DO NOT use the Eb key. It is used for venting ONLY on beginner instruments. This creates bad habits.
- Oboes are one of the easiest instruments to get out of adjustment. Keep your oboes in good adjustment!
- Bridge keys need to be aligned on both sides of the instrument, adjoining the top and middle joint.

Other Resources:

- https://www.midwestclinic.org/user_files_1/pdfs/clinicianmaterials/2005/william_robinson.pdf
- <http://www.oboesforidgets.com/tips.htm>

Check out <https://www.bigskyreeds.com/> for hand made reeds!