

Basics in FLUTE Maintenance

Supplies:

- **Cotton rod/handkerchief** – A cleaning rod typically comes with the purchase or rental of an instrument.
- **“Cigarette” Paper**-for younger students...they will not be able to purchase. Hand out 2 or 3 sheets to each student. Tissue paper may also work. This is for sticky pads. The idea being to pull the moisture away from the pads.
- **Q-Tips**
- **Soft brush (makeup artist’s paint brush)**
- **NO SCREW DRIVERS!!**

Daily Maintenance: (Students should)

- As you play moisture from your mouth is collected throughout the tube of the flute. Cleaning is a must so that moisture does not accumulate on the pads. As to not scratch the inside of the flute wrap a cloth (handkerchief or thin soft cotton material) around the rod. Thread and twist material through the eye of the rod. Gently insert into each of the joints, ie. Head joint, body, and foot.
- Use the cloth to wipe off tenon joints after each use. Grease and dirt accumulate and will assist with ease of connecting joints.
- Using a Q-Tip, clean debris from the embouchure hole, and if students have an open-hole key work.

Band Director Visual Checks: Headjoint cork, pads, tenon, springs, screws, and body of instrument.

- The flute's headjoint cork must be set at 17 millimeters (piccolo = 7.5 mm.) from the center of the blowhole. This marking is found on the cleaning rod. If the cork comes out of position it must be corrected or the octaves will be out of tune. **NEVER** remove the cork from the top end of the headjoint as it is parabolic (tapered) in design and to do so could seriously damage the headjoint.
- **DO NOT** pick up from the lip plate or key mechanism.