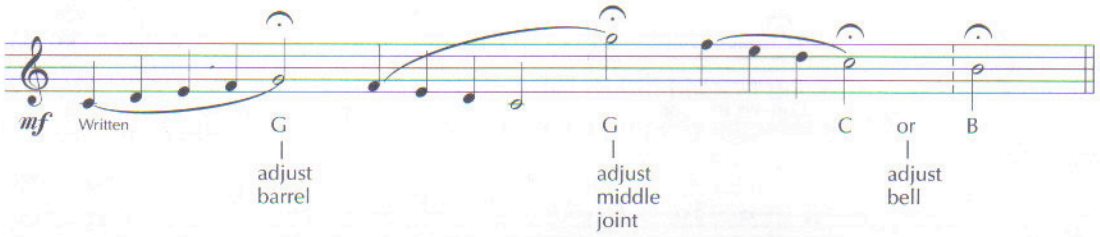
CLARINET TUNING GUIDE

Procedures for Tuning the Instrument

1. Warm up thoroughly before tuning.
2. Tune at a mezzo-forte dynamic level and do not use vibrato.
3. Tune to a reliable frequency (electronic tuner, etc.) using the recommended tuning note(s) below.
4. Do not humor the tuning note; play it straight. Adjust the barrell (middle joint and bell) if the pitch is sharp or flat.

BASIC TUNING NOTE(S)

Tuning pitches are indicated with half notes; quarter note pitches are used to help "groove" each tuning note by approaching it from below or above.



Tuning Mechanism: Barrel (Middle Joint, Bell). Pull out or push in the barrel (never the mouthpiece) to tune the open tone G if it is sharp or flat (the barrel is the main tuning mechanism). Next, adjust the middle joint to tune the G on top of the staff. Last, adjust the bell to tune the C or B in the staff if necessary.

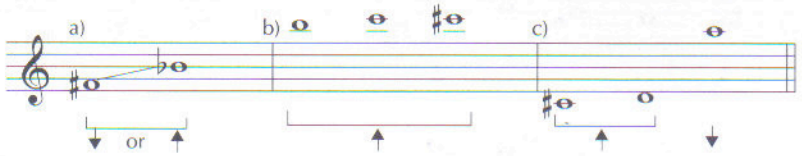
Note: If your soprano clarinet is extremely sharp and you have to pull the barrel more than 1 1/2 mm, use tuning rings to fill in the gap, otherwise poor intonation will result.

The concert tuning pitches for B flat soprano, bass and contrabass clarinets are F and B flat or A; the concert tuning pitches for E flat soprano, alto and contraalto clarinets are B flat and E flat or D.

Techniques for Adjusting Pitches While Playing

1. Alternate Fingerings
2. Finger Shading
3. Embouchure Adjustment-Lipping
4. Combinations of the Above

INHERENT INTONATION FLAWS*



a) The throat tones may be sharp or flat depending on the instrument, mouthpiece, reed, and/or player. Use finger shading or alternate fingerings to correct faulty intonation.
b) For B natural, lower the second finger of the left hand over the second tone hole until the note is in tune. For C natural, lower the first finger of the left hand over the first tone hole.
c) These notes (and possibly others) may be out of tune on your instrument. If so, experiment with finger shading and alternate fingerings. Remember that the clarinet is the least flexible of all wind instruments as regards pitch adjustment by lipping.

Good clarinet intonation and tone quality are largely dependent upon correct embouchure formation, sufficient air support, and a good quality mouthpiece and reed.

**Arrows pointing up indicate that the notes tend to be sharp; arrows pointing down indicate that the notes tend to be flat.*