

TEACHING STRATEGIES

Mouthpiece/Barrel

Have beginning students warm up daily with only the mouthpiece and barrel to focus on fundamentals. The students will produce a concert F# if embouchure, air support, and tongue position are all correct.

Straws

To help students understand the components of a good embouchure, have them drink water through a straw while looking in a mirror. While drinking water, most students will have a flattened chin, the correct amount of lower lip rolled over the bottom teeth, and firm corners. Encourage students to practice their embouchure with a mirror daily.

Swab in Bell

To help students develop a good air column, insert a bundled up swab into the bell of the clarinet and have them play a low chalumeau E1. Tell the student to try to push the swab out of the clarinet with the air. Suddenly pull the swab out of the bell and the student should be producing a big, full sound.

Paper Trick

Students often don't take enough mouthpiece. Place a piece of paper between the mouthpiece and the reed and mark the contact point on the reed lightly with a pencil. This will illustrate how much mouthpiece to take. Cutting a mouthpiece patch in half and placing it further down on the mouthpiece can also be a great tactile reminder for students of where to put their teeth and of how much mouthpiece to take.

Hand Position

If a student rests their left thumb on the body of the instrument while playing throat tones, rather than hovering it over the tone hole, place a mounting square on the instrument under the thumb hole. This will cause the student's thumb to stick if it is not hovering, which will quickly break this bad habit. For students who rest their right index finger under the side keys or have difficulty holding the instrument with proper hand and finger position, consider the use of a neckstrap.

Voicing Check

To check a student's tongue position, have them sustain C3 above the staff. While the student is playing, press the second side key from the top. If the tongue is arched properly, this should produce a clear altissimo D3. If the D does not speak clearly, the student's tongue is placed too low.



Clarinet Strap



The art of consistency.

Reserve reeds are meticulously crafted using precision technology and digitally cut to the highest tolerances for a whole new level of quality and consistency. Engineered to offer tonal flexibility and ease of transition between registers, Reserve reeds help clarinetists achieve their ideal sound.

Authored by Dr. Thomas Kmiecik

D'Addario & Company, Inc.
Farmingdale, NY 11735 USA
daddario.com

D'Addario, Planet Waves, and Pro-Winder are registered trademarks or trademarks of D'Addario & Company, Inc. or its affiliates in the United States and/or other countries. Copyright © 2015, D'Addario & Company, Inc. All rights reserved.

daddario.com

WMR-EGSGL5



CLARINET

SURVIVAL GUIDE



 **D'Addario**

FINDING THE RIGHT MOUTHPIECE

Mouthpieces 101

The **facing** of a mouthpiece measures the curve of the mouthpiece away from the reed. A facing is often identified by its **tip opening**: the distance in mm between the reed and the tip of the mouthpiece.

- A mouthpiece with a *close facing* (smaller tip opening) is less resistant than one with a more *open facing* (larger tip opening).
- Closer facings generally require harder reeds, while more open facings require softer reeds.

D'Addario Reserve Mouthpieces

Available in three resistance options

Reserve mouthpieces are milled, not molded, from solid rubber to ensure the highest level of consistency. For teachers, the consistency in production helps an entire clarinet section sound more homogenous. Reserve mouthpieces are designed to help foster strong fundamental habits, including proper embouchure, correct tongue position, and a steady air stream.



Resistance Comparison Chart

	LESS	RESISTANCE			MORE
Model		X0	X5	X10	
Tip Opening		1.00mm	1.05mm	1.12mm	

Upgrading to a hard rubber mouthpiece can often be more effective than buying a new clarinet. The improvements in sound quality and response are often noticed immediately by both the student and the teacher and can help accelerate musical growth.

Characteristics:

When looking for a mouthpiece, listen for **response** and **sound**.

- **Response:** Is the sound produced easily? If it is too difficult, consider a closer facing or a softer reed. If it is too easy, consider a more open facing or a harder reed.
- **Sound:** Is the sound focused and centered? If the sound is buzzy, spread, or lacks center, consider a more open facing or a harder reed. If the sound is stuffy or too covered, consider a closer facing or a softer reed.

REED SELECTION



Rico reeds are ideal for students and revered by educators worldwide. The Rico cut features a thinner vamp that allows students the ability to produce a clear, full sound right from the beginning of their study. Today's Rico reed is more consistent than ever, due to countless improvements in the cane fields and at the factory.



For advancing students through professionals, **Reserve** and **Reserve Classic** are exceptional options. Crafted using a digital production process, these reeds feature unprecedented quality and consistency, which means less guess work for you and your students.

- **Reserve** is a traditional blank reed that offers tonal clarity and brilliance.
- **Reserve Classic** is a thick blank reed that offers tonal complexity and cover.

Strength Comparison Chart

BRAND	SOFTER										HARDER									
Rico	1.5	2	2.5	3	3.5	4														
D'Addario Reserve			2	2.5	3	3.5	3.5+	4	4+	4.5										
D'Addario Reserve Classic		2	2.5	3	3.5	3.5+	4	4+	4.5											

Suggested Reed Strengths

	RICO			D'ADDARIO RESERVE			D'ADDARIO RESERVE CLASSIC		
Beginner	2	2.5		2			2		
Intermediate	2.5	3	3.5	2.5	3		2.5	3	
Advanced				3	3.5	3.5+	3.5	3.5+	4

As students develop as clarinetists, reed strength will need to be gradually increased to facilitate high register access and proper articulation and tone development.

Reed Selection and Placement Tips

- Place the ligature below the ligature line on the mouthpiece for optimal response.
- Always start with the reed placed so that a very small black sliver of the mouthpiece tip is visible above the tip of the reed. Move the reed up slightly on the mouthpiece for increased resistance and down slightly on the mouthpiece for decreased resistance.

INSTRUMENT CARE TIPS

Mouthpiece Care

The following tips will help keep your mouthpiece in great condition:

- Use a mouthpiece patch to protect the mouthpiece from teeth marks. This also helps keep teeth from sliding and prevents biting while playing.
- Always use a mouthpiece cap when not playing and while the instrument is being stored in the case to protect the mouthpiece from being damaged.



Reserve Mouthpiece Patch



Mouthpiece Cap

Reed Care

Proper reed care can not only help clarinetists play better, but can also help save money and time. Good reeds are vital component of building strong fundamentals and promoting musical growth.

- Break in reeds. Play reeds for only a short time on the first day; then, gradually increase the duration of time each day.
- Purchasing a full box of reeds is always recommended over purchasing individual reeds. This encourages good rotation habits and is more cost effective.
- Rotating reeds can increase their lifespan. Make sure that the same reed is not played every single day. Consider having students date and number their reeds with a pencil. Discard reeds after 40-60 hours of use.

- Always have more than one good reed ready for use at all times. For beginners, having 3-4 good reeds on hand is appropriate. More advanced students should have 5-8.

- Never store or leave reeds on the mouthpiece when putting the instrument away.

- Store reeds in a humidity-controlled environment, such as the Multi-Instrument Reed Storage Case. This helps prevent warping and keeps reeds ready for optimal performance. Replace the humidity pack inside the case when it hardens.

- Start with the ligature on the mouthpiece first, then lift up the ligature slightly and slide the reed down behind it. This will prevent accidental damage to reeds during the assembly process.



D'Addario Multi-Instrument Reed Storage Case