

Teaching Clarinet Reed Placement

FROM MUSICAL MASTERY TEACHER'S EDITION: WOODWINDS

Reed Placement on Mouthpiece

Teaching students to be detailed and meticulous when placing their reed on their mouthpiece is critical for future tone production, as well as valuable in establishing extreme attention to detail in all areas of clarinet playing. Check for accurate reed placement daily until students are consistent, and then spot check reed placement throughout the rest of the year.



Lip Placement on Reed

Have students turn their correctly assembled mouthpieces sideways and notice where the reed separates from the mouthpiece table. Next, gently insert a piece of paper between the mouthpiece and the reed. Do not force the paper any further than where it naturally stops. Draw a line with a pencil to mark where the paper stopped. This line will now indicate to students where the bottom lip should be placed on the reed for the best air usage and tone quality. When switching a student from B^b Clarinet to Bass Clarinet, have them go through these steps again so they can visually see how much more mouthpiece they will need to take into their mouth.

