

CLARINET HAND & FINGER PLACEMENT

HAND & FINGER RULES

Fingers should be gently curved and relaxed at all times.

- Avoid collapsing the first joint of each finger, which should just be gently bent.



CORRECT

INCORRECT

- Avoid resting the right hand index finger underneath the side Eb/Bb key to support the instrument.
- A neck strap can be used to support the weight of the clarinet, if the student is struggling with holding the instrument.



Keep fingers close to the keys and tone holes when not in use.

- Fingers that are too far away from the keys inhibit good technique.
- When not in use, the pinkies should rest on the pinky keys. “Home base” for the right pinky is typically the F/C key and “home base” for the left pinky is typically the E/B key.
- Lift from the back knuckle, keeping each finger curved. Avoid straightening or lifting the fingers too far away from the clarinet. Be sure to not keep the fingers too close to the clarinet, which will cause flatness in pitch.

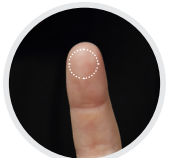


CORRECT

INCORRECT

Cover each tone hole completely, but keep finger pressure light.

- Use the pad part of the finger, not the tip.



Correct Hand Positions:



- Keep left hand thumb on a slight angle (30°).
- Left hand first finger should rest on the side G#/A♭ key.
- Left hand position should be gently angled.