



Do-It-Yourself Flute Repair

- Problem:** STICKY PADS THAT *SOUND STICKY* or RESPOND SLOWLY
When: Humid conditions, any time of year
Supplies: Rubbing alcohol, pipe cleaners, paper towel, cigarette paper -or- Powder Papers -or- Pad Cleaning Paper
(Dills Brand Pipe Cleaner - All cotton - be sure not bristly!)
- How to:** Clean Pads - fold pipe cleaner in half and dip bent end into rubbing alcohol. Blot on tissue so not dripping. Clean pad and tone hole with circular motions. Blot with cigarette paper or pad/powder paper.
- Caution:** Do not clean with alcohol more than 1 X per month. Tap pad against paper to complete, do not drag paper out from closed key.
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- Problem:** CANNOT PLAY NOTES BELOW LOW E (or D)
When: When room temperature is cool - often in the Spring
Supplies: Your thumb
How to: Press down evenly on the D# key in the center of key cup for 2 minutes.
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- Problem:** STUFFY - CANNOT GET A CLEAR TONE
When: Season changes, air travel and/or new climate, high altitude.
Supplies: Steam (boiling water or running bath/shower) or use air conditioning
How to: Create opposite to balance humidity by adding steam or removing. Boil water or run shower to create steam while practicing in next room. Or, use the A/C or dehumidifier to remove humidity.
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- Problem:** DIFFICULT TO ASSEMBLE OR DISASSEMBLE FLUTE
When: Anytime
Supplies: Silver polish, paper towel
How to: Clean end of head joint where it connects to the body, inside the receiver, end of flute body, and inside foot joint receiver. If silver polish not available, use warm water on a paper towel.
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- Problem:** EMBOUCHURE HOLE NEEDS CLEANING - FLUTE SOUNDS BUZZY, ROUGH
When: Anytime
Supplies: Q-tip, rubbing alcohol
How to: Lightly run Q-tip in circular motions inside embouchure hole until clean
Caution: Do not use pressure on inside of embouchure hole...light touch only!
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- Problem:** FLUTE DOES NOT SPEAK AT ALL
When: Usually after increased playing time and/or change of season
Supplies: Small screw driver
How to: Determine what is out of adjustment, and turn adjustment screws.
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- Problem:** FLUTE IS OUT OF ADJUSTMENT - STUFFY, UNFOCUSSED SOUND
When: Usually after increased playing time and/or change of season
Supplies: Toothpick, cigarette paper, Crazy Glue, sand paper (#600), tweezers
How to: Glue in adjustments or sand adjustments after checking for issue.