



Engaging the Beginning Clarinet Student

**CLINICIAN:
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VI. Assembly of the clarinet

- A. Order of assembly does not necessarily matter
- B. Delicate parts that needs the most attention
 - 1. Connecting the bridge keys
 - 2. Assembly of the ligature and reed

VII. Clarinet Embouchure/first tones

- A. Reed strength
 - 1. #2 (or maybe 1.5) very beginning
 - 2. 2.5 – 3 as needed.
- B. Sequence for leading students to the clarinet embouchure (with relaxed face)
 - 1. OPEN the jaw slightly
 - 2. TOUCH the reed to the bottom lip
 - 3. Bring the top teeth DOWN to the mouthpiece
 - 4. Make a SEAL with the lips
 - 5. BREATHE in through the nose - out through the mouth
 - a. Just free air no tone yet!
 - b. Learn what still face really means
 - c. Increase speed of air until tone occurs naturally with ease (follow through)
 - d. Using syllables

VIII. Hand position

- A. Lead students to natural hand position with no wasted energy
- B. Squeeze – release action of fingers

X. Articulation

- A. Breathing and centered tone must be intact.
- B. Using “Li Li” syllable
- C. Learning to start with an articulation.