



**Is There a Clarinet Doctor in the House?
Don't Treat the Symptoms, Cure the Problem!**

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Is There a Clarinet Doctor in The House?

Don't Treat the Symptoms, Cure the Problem!

Presented by Paul J. Worosello

TBA Clinic/ Convention – San Antonio, TX

Friday, July 24: 5:15 PM – 6:15 PM CC205

Introduction and Overview

Posture & Head Position (Affects tone)

- **Basic posture, stand/sit tall**
- **Position of head**
- **Angle of clarinet, bell by the knees**

Breathing (Affects tone)

- **Stomach must go out**

Hand Placement (Tension affects mainly technique, some tone)

- **Clarinet is balanced, not held**
- **Position/placement of thumbs and pinkie fingers**
- **The two motions that create ALL finger tension**
 - **Brief digression on changing habits**
 - **Raising awareness, eliminating pressure points**
 - **Are fingernail tips white?**

Placement & Position of Tongue (Affects mainly tone, some technique)

- **Observations from experience**
- **Must be in “eee” position, unique to clarinet**
- **High register: nasal “eee”, Urkel “eee”**
- **Highest register placement: F# and higher**
 - **Main cause of upper register squeaks, not what you would think**
- **“Heee” to “Deee”**
 - **Start with tongue on reed, tip of tongue to tip of reed misconceptions**
 - **“Deee” tongue releases the air**
- **1/2, 1/2 Ab exercise mandates tongue is in correct “eee” position, regardless of what student says.**
- **Only move tip of tongue when articulating**
 - **Grip sides of tongue between teeth**

Reeds (Affects tone and tonguing technique)

- **Strength and rationale**
- **Position on mouthpiece**
 - **Place on mouthpiece, then add ligature**

Embouchure (THE TONAL FOUNDATION OF THE INSTRUMENT)

- The less said, the better
- Positioning of bottom lip, flat chin
 - Firm bottom lip anchored against bottom teeth
 - Firm corners against teeth
 - Drop jaw, don't let lip go over teeth, or corners come forward
- To flatten chin
 - Drinking a thick milkshake
 - Nip bottom lip with top teeth
- Positioning of top lip
 - Push finger off tooth exercise
- Anchor mouthpiece behind top teeth
- How to know if you are taking enough mouthpiece

Most players play too tight (Affects tone)

- mouthpiece and barrel should produce concert F# around 0 to +10 sharp
- How to correct those playing very sharp F#'s and flat G's
 - C – B – C exercise
- Exercises to learn to lip down and importance to playing in tune
- learn visual placement first, then match the correct "feel"
- Siren exercise
- Harmonic exercise

Questions from audience

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