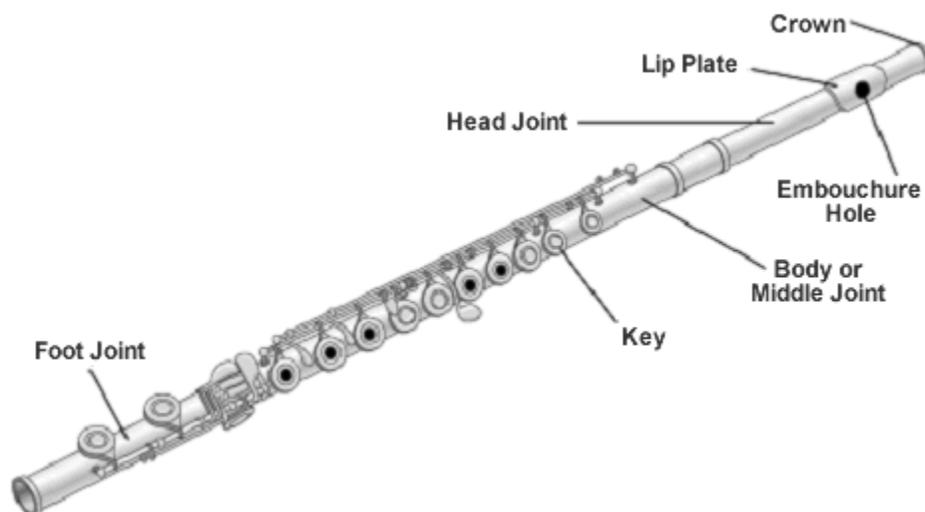


# FLUTE CLEANING



Congratulations on purchasing your first flute! A good quality instrument can last a lifetime – if it is well maintained. This includes regular check ups at the Senseney Music Repair Center and a regular home cleaning routine.

## *How do I clean my flute?*

This is a critical question since improper cleaning can damage your instrument. If you follow these instructions carefully you should have no problems.

**Tools:** *(Many of these are contained in the Senseney Music care kit.)*

1. Rod – long metal stick with an eye at one end. Usually comes with the flute.
2. Snake or strip of soft cloth
3. Polish cloth - untreated
4. Pad cleaning papers or clean tissue papers

The most delicate parts of your flute are the pads. They are made from felt that is covered by a thin layer of fish skin. If this skin is punctured, torn or scuffed the pad can no longer seal and your flute will leak which makes it harder to play. Pads will also become hard and brittle with age which also causes leaks. Keeping moisture and sharp objects away from the pads will prolong the life of the pad and keep away costly repairs.

### **Daily Care:**

#### **I. Assembly**

- a. It is best to wait to assemble your flute the first time with an experienced teacher.
- b. It is very easy to bend a key when assembling your flute. When inserting the headjoint into the body of the flute, be careful to grasp the top of the body where there are no keys. Align the hole in the mouthpiece with the top ring keys.
- c. The foot of the flute is connected to the bottom end of the body. This can be tricky because you must try to grasp the flute where there are no keys when connecting and aligning the foot joint. Use your arm as a support for the body and grasp the foot on the lower half so that you do not bend the keys. Align the foot so that the bar on the keys is in the center of the lowest key on the body.

## II. **Cleaning**

- a. After playing your flute there will be moisture in the mouthpiece and bore that must be removed. First disassemble the flute.
- b. If you have a snake put the cleaning rod inside the snake. If you have a strip of cloth, thread the cloth through the eye of the rod and wrap cloth over the tip of the rod. Push the rod and cloth or snake through the body of the flute. Repeat for the foot. Then gently push the rod and cloth or snake into the headjoint until it stops. Remove the rod.
- c. **NOTE:** Do not store wet cloth or snake inside body of flute.
- d. Insert pad saver if desired. **NOTE:** Do not use pad saver to clean flute.
- e. You may need to use a polish cloth to wipe fingerprints and grime off your flute body and keys. Be very careful not to rub near the edge of the pads as this can cause them to become scuffed or frayed and destroy the pads.

## III. **Home Repairs**

- a. Do not try to repair an instrument yourself. This is a fragile, expensive instrument and can easily be damaged even by well meaning hands. If your instrument is not working properly, bring it to the Senseney Music Repair Center as soon as possible.
- b. Repairs done by anyone but the Senseney Music Repair Center will void any maintenance agreement connected to that instrument.