

PLEASE READ THIS FIRST!

Care Instructions for the Folk Flute

PROTECT THIS FLUTE FROM HEAT AND MOISTURE EXTREMES! Do not leave it in your car on a hot day!

QUESTIONS? Please read through these care instructions carefully first, then look at my online FAQ pages at www.folkflutes.com or www.caseyburnsflutes.com first. **Answers to 99% of the questions I get asked can be found there.** With over 200 Folk Flutes in service, I don't always have the time to answer the same questions from everyone!

Cases and Storing: Your flute may be stored in a simple cloth roll or case. Cases are now available for \$25 postpaid, made by my daughter Lila. In any circumstance, the flute should never be stored in direct sunlight, near a heat source, and should be protected from extreme dryness. Leaving a flute in a car will result in damage! The use of a Damp-it is highly recommended. Generally, the sections should be stored separately. When you are done playing the instrument, disassemble and shake out any standing moisture - but do not dry out the flute excessively! The point is to retard the drying rate. Mopane is pretty durable and reliable, one of the reasons I use this wood for the Folk Flute. Out of nearly 200 Folk Flutes shipped, only a few have been returned for cracks!

Proper Position of Embouchure and Cork: The standard position of the flute embouchure or blowhole should be so that the edge you blow against is in line with the fingerholes. Rolling it away will sharpen and rolling it towards will flatten. Experiment using the standard position as a starting point. If the plug gets moved, I suggest setting it so that the face of the plug should be 23mm from the center of the embouchure hole.

Breaking in a New Wooden Flute: When new it should be played only a few minutes at a time up to a cumulative amount of an hour a day. After a month, the instrument can be played gradually more. The wood needs to get use to the cycle of wetting and drying. The flute should be oiled every 5 to 10 hours of playing time with Bore Oil, available from woodwind shops. Both the insides and outside of the flute should be oiled.

Oiling: Oiling protects your flute by keeping the wood flexible. It is not a water barrier! Both the inside and outside of the flute needs to be oiled, but with only a small amount applied with a squeeze bottle and allowed to soak in (enough to wet the surfaces). Avoid moving the cork, and oil the flute when dry, **NOT** just after playing!

Woodwind Bore Oil can be quite expensive. A good substitute is Artists Raw Linseed Oil. **NEVER** use the regular paint store variety - it's poisonous as well as inappropriate - it has driers which accelerate its polymerization, and can burn your house down if the rags used aren't burned immediately. However, the artistic oil, available at art supply houses such as Daniel Smith's in Seattle, dries very slowly and does not go rancid with time. Almond oil can be used, but should be mixed with water and decanted to remove water soluble impurities. A little vitamin E added helps keep the oil from going rancid.

Avoid using oils with scents, such as Musk, massage oils, etc. I am allergic to most of these and will refuse to service an instrument treated with these!!!!

The Socket -Tenon Joint: I like to wrap the tenon with a good stout Linen or synthetic thread, such as #FF Reedmaking Thread (available from Forrests Music in Berkeley), and lubricate the thread with the wax that they use for installing toilets, available at hardware stores everywhere. This substance is the best thread grease that I have tried. Never replace threaded wrappings with cork or wrap them with teflon tape! This will certainly lead to cracked sockets and on my flutes results in a voided warranty. Check periodically for tightness at the joints. If the joint gets too tight, pull it apart and unwrap a few turns of the thread. If the joints are too loose, they may be rewrapped, or a few turns of thread added - waxed dental floss works well for this purpose.

When flutes arrive, the joint may be sometimes a little loose. This is especially true when I ship the flutes from here, which is quite humid, to a drier part of the country - especially winter! A few minutes of playing will usually tighten the joint some - but in a pinch, a few turns of thread may be added. Waxed Dental Floss works well for this.

Pitch: I tune the flutes around 441 in order to allow for some tuning flexibility. If you find the flute's pitch center is considerably off, check the alignment of the fingerholes and toneholes and make adjustment - usually when sharp the flute can be lowered in pitch by rolling the embouchure in. It will also play better rolled in. If this does not solve this, consult with me.

Servicing your Instrument: Servicing the Folk Flute a year or so after purchase runs \$40 plus \$10 shipping within the US, \$30 outside. I will rewrap the tenons, check the oiling (and chastise you for not oiling), and generally make sure that you are maintaining it correctly. I will also check the tuning and repolish the bore as well. Turnaround depends upon my workload and travel schedule.

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