



# Clarinet Note Studio

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## CLARINET ACCESSORY UPGRADES FOR THE BEGINNING CLARINETIST

This is a list of some common accessories that have helped improve my student's playing and musical enjoyment over the years. Sometimes making a small upgrade in your equipment can make a huge difference.

### CLARINET MOUTHPIECES

The best thing you could do for your beginning clarinetist in my opinion is to buy them a good mouthpiece. Typically the stock mouthpieces that come with rental clarinets are not the best. The mouthpiece is arguably the second most expensive piece of equipment, aside from the clarinet, but makes the biggest impact on tone quality. Here are some of my favorite mouthpieces for beginning clarinetists:

**Vandoren CM301 5RV Bb Clarinet Mouthpiece:**

<https://rb.gy/0nxao>

**Vandoren CM4158 M13 Lyre 13 Series Profile 88 Bb Clarinet Mouthpiece:**

<https://rb.gy/oesa9>

**Vandoren CM3178 M15 Profile 88 Bb Clarinet Mouthpiece:**

<https://rb.gy/9yfic>

### CLARINET LIGATURES

Just like with stock clarinet mouthpieces, typically music stores will supply a stock ligature with most rental clarinets. It's important to note that clarinet ligatures are produced in two different styles; [Traditional and Inverted](#). I prefer to have beginning students start on a traditional metal ligature as it helps secure the reed on the

mouthpiece, and it's easier to tighten the ligature screw(s). I've linked my favorite traditional ligature, and a very good inverted ligature below:

**\*\*These ligatures do not come with mouthpiece caps which help protect the reed and mouthpiece from chipping. I've linked some mouthpiece cap options below as well.**

**Bonade Clarinet Ligature - Silver:**

<https://rb.gy/66d7v>

**Clarinet Mouthpiece Protective Cap:**

<https://rb.gy/efkes>

**Rovner V-1R Clarinet Ligature:**

<https://rb.gy/fzpos>

**OriGlam Professional Bb Clarinet Mouthpiece Cap:**

<https://rb.gy/y1gy4>

## CLARINET REEDS

Clarinet reeds come in different strengths. Typically beginning clarinetists will need a 2 or 2.5 strength in reeds. In my experience the 1.5 strength reeds on the market are too soft, especially if you buy a new mouthpiece. When you're buying reeds make sure to buy B-flat clarinet reeds (there is an instrument called the E-flat clarinet and music stores will display the B-flat and E-flat clarinet reeds next to each other. E-flat clarinet reeds are smaller than B-flat reeds and will not work on the B-flat clarinet mouthpiece).

**Vandoren CR102 Bb Clarinet Traditional Reeds Strength 2; Box of 10:**

<https://rb.gy/suz59>

## REED CASE

It's important to store reeds in a reed case and not in the plastic packaging that the reeds come packaged in. Reeds are prone to warping and chipping so it's important to store them in a reed case between playing sessions. These are a few beginning reed cases that can be stored in most clarinet cases.

**Vandoren VQP06 Quad Pack Reed Case:**

<https://rb.gy/xbgmj>

**D'Addario Reed Guard, Small, Blue:**

<https://rb.gy/6y41h>

# CLARINET SWAB

Most rental clarinets will come with a cloth or felt swab, but it has been my experience that those types of swabs don't work as well as the silk swabs. Silk swabs are a bigger investment, but if you decide to buy a silk swab it will make cleaning out the clarinet a more enjoyable experience.

**Hodge Silk Clarinet Swab - Burgundy:**

<https://rb.gy/qt3oo>

# CORK GREASE

Cork grease will more than likely be supplied with your rental clarinet, but in case it is not supplied it's important to keep some cork grease in your case.

**Rico D'Addario All-Natural Cork Grease - 1 Stick:**

<https://rb.gy/g5cjc>

# THUMB REST CUSHION

The clarinet is held up by the thumb rest using the player's right thumb. This can become very uncomfortable for a new clarinetist. A thumb rest cushion is an easy and inexpensive solution to this common issue.

**3 Pcs Soft Silicone Clarinet Thumb Rest Cushion Protector Thumb Protector Fit for Most Clarinet, 3 Colors:**

<https://rb.gy/roann>

# MOUTHPIECE CUSHION

A mouthpiece cushion can be very helpful, especially for beginning players. The mouthpiece cushion protects the mouthpiece from scratches and can help anchor the mouthpiece in the correct position with the players top teeth to avoid slipping.

**Clarinet Mouthpiece Cushions, Thin, 0.3mm Clear, 8-Pack:**

<https://rb.gy/bii5u>

\*\*All of the links above link to Amazon, but here are some other good website resources for clarinet parts and accessories:

Woodwind and Brasswind - <https://www.wwbw.com>  
Muncy Winds Music Co. - <https://muncywinds.com>  
Weiner Music - <https://store.weinermusic.com>