

# TAKING CARE OF YOUR RECORDER



## Oiling Wooden Recorders

To impregnate the inner bore of the recorder and protect it from moisture, you should oil your instrument regularly. Oiling also helps to prevent the wood from cracking and can even improve the sound quality.

### Which recorders require oiling?

Our recorders made of boxwood, grenadilla, olive wood, palisander, plum or rosewood must be oiled regularly. Instruments that are impregnated with paraffin, such as our instruments made of maple or pear wood, do not require oiling.

### How often should you oil your recorder?

As a general rule, the inside bore should always be slightly greasy. The recorder is sufficiently protected if it has a slight sheen on the inside. However, if the wood inside the bore looks dull and pale and feels dry, it should be oiled.

### Which parts of the recorder need oiling?

Varnished wooden surfaces do not need to be oiled. Otherwise, you can oil everything on the recorder except for the windway. To prevent the oil from accidentally getting there, you should leave out the block and parts of the labium.



### Which oil should you use?

We recommend our "Recorder Oil", or sweet almond oil. It is almost odorless, thin and easy to apply. It also leaves no sticky residue. It penetrates the wood and forms a thin layer on the surface that protects against moisture.



#### Warning regarding the use of linseed oil

Some players and recorder makers use linseed oil instead of almond oil. However, we advise against this, as it leaves sticky residues on the instrument that are difficult to remove. It also has a significantly shorter shelf life. **Above all, it is self-igniting!** Soaked fabrics or brushes should therefore never be left unattended. It is best to avoid linseed oil altogether!



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Moeck maintenance kit

### What you need to oil your instrument

- Oil for recorders – almond oil, available individually or in a maintenance kit from Moeck.
- A brush – fine and soft.
- A cotton cloth.
- Oil brush from Moeck – with natural bristles that are neither too hard nor too soft! Available individually or included in our maintenance kit. Not to be confused with the formerly widespread plush wipers!
- A clean, non-permeable work surface and appropriate work clothing, e.g. an apron.

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## Important Information Before You Start!

The instrument must be completely dry before oiling.

Never oil immediately after playing!



Protect key pads with kitchen paper. Fold a piece of kitchen paper several times and tuck it between the tone hole and pad (see photo).

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### Note:

Caution: Never oil the key mechanism with almond oil! Always use sewing machine oil or special key oil (see photo, available from music shops). These mineral oils do not harden and ensure that the mechanical joints work smoothly.

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Particular care must be taken with the head joint:

- Do not oil the block and the windway!
- When oiling, always hold the head joint with the beak facing upwards so that no oil can flow into the windway!

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When oiling the inner bore, do not touch the block with the brush, or only touch it gently (!). Tip: Observe the brush tip through the labium.

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Oil the labium to just 2 mm from the furthest rim!

**1**

- It is best to start with the **middle joint or foot joint**, as these are the easiest to oil.

Check regularly to ensure that the **oil is evenly distributed**. A thin layer on the surface is sufficient. Repeat the oiling process if necessary.

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## Oiling Recorders – Step by Step



1. Apply a few drops of oil to the inner edge.



2. Insert the oil brush with a twisting motion to spread the oil. Pull out with a twisting motion.



3. Before oiling the head piece, wipe off oil from the tip of the brush.



4. Carefully insert the oil brush with a twisting motion until the tip gently (!) touches the block.



5. Never apply oil inside the windway, only on to the labium: always hold the head joint with the beak facing upwards.



6. Carefully brush the labium with oil and place the parts upright to dry.

### Further tips on oiling:

The recorder needs sufficient time to absorb the oil properly. Therefore, store the instrument parts upright (e.g. on a plate) after oiling – preferably overnight.

Finally, remove any oil residue from the wood so that it does not smear. For a slight sheen on the surface, spread minor oil residues evenly.

Almond oil is viscous, which means you have to be careful to apply it only where it is intended. A positive side effect is that when you apply oil to the labium, the sides will be covered almost by themselves!