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**Article Title:** *Bassoon Troubleshooting*

**Author:** Elizabeth Rusch Fetters

**Magazine or Journal Title:** The Instrumentalist

**Instrument**: Bassoon

**Summary:**

1. A student has trouble keeping the seat strap on the seat
   1. Students may not have the strap under the thighs or may be sitting the wrong way
2. A bassoonist is playing flat
   1. The student is not using enough air
3. A bassoonist is playing sharp
   1. This could be a result of pinching or squeezing the reed
4. A student is having difficulty playing low notes
   1. This can be caused by squeezing the reed
   2. Check the bassoon for leaks
5. A student is having difficulty playing high notes
   1. The student may not be releasing the whisper key or using the correct half hole
6. No sound is coming out at all
   1. First check reed
   2. There may be something stuck in the bocal
7. The instrument squeaks when played
   1. This may be the fault of the reed
8. Articulations are unclear
   1. The part of the tongue immediately behind the tip must contact both blades of the reed for a clear articulation