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**Article Title:** *Clarinet Hand Position*

**Author:** John Knight

**Magazine or Journal Title:** The Instrumentalist

**Instrument**: Clarinet

**Summary:**

1. Holding two tennis balls imprints the correct shape of both hands for holding the clarinet in a C formation without collapsing the wrists
2. Some common mistakes:
   1. Collapsing the wrist in both hands to balance the clarinet
   2. The left thumb parallet or perpendicular to the clarinet and not covering the tone hole
   3. Keeping the right thumb too far under the thumb rest and not pushing enough to wedge the mouthpiece firmly beneath the top teeth.
   4. Keeping the fingers too far away from the instrument
   5. Many more examples
3. Clarinetist should use a neck strap, which alleviates the problem of a collapsing wrist trying to balance the clarinet
   1. This is often overlooked
4. If the student has the right thumb too far under the thumb rest, give him a quarter to hold vertically between the right thumb and index finger
5. To make sure fingers cover the tone holes, use the Daniel Bonade technique of gently squeezing down on the keys with the finger pads before raising them
6. Exercises provided for developing finger technique in the chalumeau register