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**Article Title:** *Taming the Oboe*

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**Magazine or Journal Title:** The Instrumentalist

**Instrument**: Oboe

**Summary:**

1. Identifying problems
   1. There are many variables that confront oboe players including:
      1. Tenon cork fit
      2. Bridge alignment
      3. Adjustment mechanism
      4. Rods and keys that bend
      5. Condensation
      6. Grime
      7. Cracks
      8. The double reed
2. Tenon cork
   1. A firm connection between the top joint and bottom joints of an oboe is important for the instrument to function correctly
   2. Instructions for checking for a problem with the cork
3. Adjustment mechanism
   1. The mechanism of the oboe is constructed through relationships between what are called primary keys and secondary keys
   2. Instructions for checking this mechanism
   3. Resources for oboe adjustments
4. Bridge alignment
   1. The bridge key on the right side should be perfectly aligned in order for the adjustment mechanism to function correctly
5. Fragile mechanism
   1. The key work and mechanism of rods and posts on oboes are extremely sensitive to pressure
6. Condensation
   1. Tone holes easily trap condensation, which then accumulates in the vent holes on the side and back octave keys of the oboe
7. Swabbing
   1. Consistent swabbing of the instrument with silk pull-through swabs removes condensation so it does not accumulate
   2. Troubleshooting problems getting the swab stuck
8. Grime
   1. Accumulated grime may prevent the oboe from working correctly
9. Top-joint suction test
   1. The top joint of an oboe should be free from cracks and warped pads for the instrument to function properly
10. Instrument selection
    1. Beginning-model oboes are not always the best choice to purchase
11. Finding a good reed
12. Crowing the reed
13. Reed characteristics
    1. Handmade reeds
    2. Adapting to a handmade reed
14. Playing sharp