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**Article Title:** Top 10 (+) Things That Beginning Clarinet Players Do Wrong and How to Correct Them

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**Magazine or Journal Title:** Texas Music Educators Association

**Instrument**: Clarinet

**Summary:**

1. Equipment set up
   1. Set up information about the following are provided:
      1. Mouthpiece
      2. Ligature
      3. Reeds
      4. Reed placement
2. Visible embouchure problems
   1. Corners
   2. How much bottom lip over teeth
   3. How much mouthpiece in the mouth
3. Invisible embouchure problems
   1. Mouthpiece not pushed firmly against the top teeth
   2. “Wimpy” top lip
   3. Bottom jaw too low/open
   4. Tongue too low
   5. Tongue too far back
   6. Air speed too slow
   7. Reed is too soft
4. Other embouchure/air speed issues
   1. No sound and no air is getting past the reed
   2. No sound, but air is getting past the reed
   3. Squawk
   4. High squeal
   5. Fairly decent sound on mouthpiece and barrel, but pitch is sharp.
5. Other tips for embouchure development
   1. Spend a long time on mouthpiece and barrel before moving to clarinet.
   2. Start register slurs sooner than most beginning band books do.
6. Tonguing
   1. Students can forget everything they ever knew about a good embouchure when they start tonguing! Precede tonguing practice with long tones
   2. Exercises provided
7. Tonguing problems, causes and solutions
   1. Tongue is sluggish
   2. “thoo” sound
   3. “Loo” sound
   4. “chewing” while tonguing
8. Additional tonguing tips
   1. Don’t worry about starting the first note with the tongue at first
   2. Play a whole note first, then follow with 4 quarter notes. This establishes correct sound before the tongue is involved.
9. Hand position
   1. Neck straps help solve all the issues below. There are three types of neck straps:
      1. Neck stretches, cord is stationary
      2. Neck is stationary, cord stretches
      3. All stretchy
10. Hand position problems
    1. Right thumb slides too far under thumb rest
    2. Left thumb
    3. Right index finger hooks under the Eb key
    4. Flying or curling fingers
    5. Left index finger lifs when moving to the “A” key
11. Exercises provided to help develop skills in an order which builds on each previous skill