

Is it Supposed to Sound Like That?

Fundamental Tuning and Blending Exercises for Oboe and Bassoon



The Midwest Clinic
Chicago, IL
December 19, 2024

Sally Bohls and
Jennifer Auerbach

1. Note blending - add players in underneath 1 main player on unison pitch.
2. Stacking arpeggios - major/minor (the student playing the 3rd lowers their note a half step while the others are sustaining)/major (the student playing the 3rd shifts back up a half step while the others are sustaining).
3. Octave jumping - low/high with high/low.
4. Scale building - each player gets a scale note.
5. Chord interval matching - 2 or 3 players skipping around all intervals in/out of unison.
6. Tuner/muscle memory exercise - student plays the assigned note/director turns tuner around for the student to see where their pitch is registering/director turns the tuner away/student plays the note again doing the necessary adjustments/director turns tuner back for the student to check their pitch.
7. Vibrato shaping - sustain/add vibrato/sustain.
8. Dynamic exercise - on the reed first then on half-hole D on the oboe or half-hole G on the bassoon start with soft air/add air pressure until the note speaks/sustain the note at the soft volume with air pressure.
9. Dynamic shaping - start soft/sustain soft/add air pressure for more volume/back to soft sustain.
10. Vibrato/Dynamic shaping - start soft no vibrato/sustain soft/add air pressure for more volume/add vibrato/back to soft sustain no vibrato.

Oboe Exercises

Note Blending Exercise

Sally Bohls

Player #1 Add Player #2 Add Player #3 Add Player #4 Add Player #5

Stacking Arpeggios major/minor

6 Player #1 Add Player #2 Add Player #3 Add Player #4

Octave Jumping Exercise

10 Player #1 starts at m. 1 and player #2 starts at m. 3 **at the same time.**

Scale Building and Ear Training Exercise

14 A new player plays the next note in the scale and so on.

Chord Interval Matching Exercise

22 Multiple players alternate notes. Do not let go of note until the player after you plays their note.

Tuner/Muscle Memory Exercise

Student plays assigned note. Teacher turns tuner around for the student to see tuning. Teacher turns tuner away from student. Student plays the pitch again making the necessary adjustment to play the pitch in tune. Teacher turns tuner around for the student to check adjustment.

28



Vibrato Shaping Exercise

NV-No Vibrato V-Add Vibrato

37



Dynamic Control Exercise

Start on the reed only. Then move to the notes. Start with little pressure behind the air. Add air pressure slowly till the sound/note speaks. Sustain the sound/note at the soft volume with constant pressure behind the air.

46



Dynamic Shaping Exercise

Start soft. Sustain soft sound. Add pressure behind the air for more volume. Back to sustain soft sound.

54



Vibrato/Dynamic Shaping Exercise

Start soft no vibrato. Sustain soft sound. Add pressure behind the air for more volume. Add vibrato. Stop vibrato while sustaining sound. Back to sustain soft sound.

62



Bassoon Exercises

Sally Bohls

Note Blending Exercise

Player #1 Add Player #2 Add Player #3 Add Player #4 Add Player #5

f *p* *p* *p* *p*

Stacking Arpeggios major/minor

6 Player #1 Add Player #2 Add Player #3 Add Player #4

mf *mf* *mf* *mf*

Octave Jumping Exercise

10 Player #1 starts at m. 1 and player #2 starts at m. 3 **at the same time.**

Scale Building and Ear Training Exercise

14 A new player plays the next note in the scale and so on.

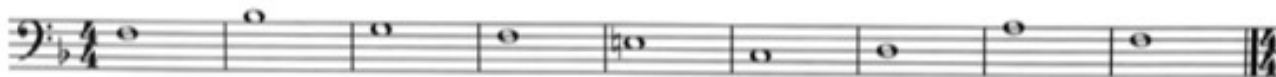
Chord Interval Matching Exercise

22 Multiple players alternate notes. Do not let go of note until the player after you plays their note.

2 Tuner/Muscle Memory Exercise

Student plays assigned note. Teacher turns tuner around for the student to see tuning. Teacher turns tuner away from student. Student plays the pitch again making the necessary adjustment to play the pitch in tune. Teacher turns tuner around for the student to check adjustment.

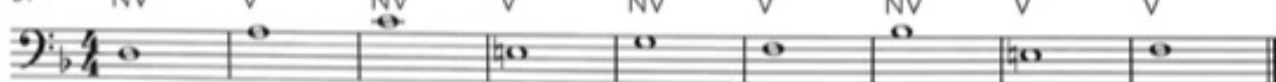
28



Vibrato Shaping Exercise

NV-No Vibrato V-Add Vibrato

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Dynamic Control Exercise

Start on the reed only. Then move to the notes. Start with little pressure behind the air. Add air pressure slowly till the sound/note speaks. Sustain the sound/note at the soft volume with constant pressure behind the air.

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Dynamic Shaping Exercise

Start soft. Sustain soft sound. Add pressure behind the air for more volume. Back to sustain soft sound.

54



Vibrato/Dynamic Shaping Exercise

Start soft no vibrato. Sustain soft sound. Add pressure behind the air for more volume. Add vibrato. Stop vibrato while sustaining sound. Back to sustain soft sound.

62



Vibrato

Exercises for learning vibrato:

1. Do with voice
2. Do with air
3. Do with reed
4. Do with oboe / bassoon (on half-hole D on oboe / half-hole G on bassoon)

Voice: Hee Hee Hee Hee

Air: Hee Hee Hee Hee
(accent using air)

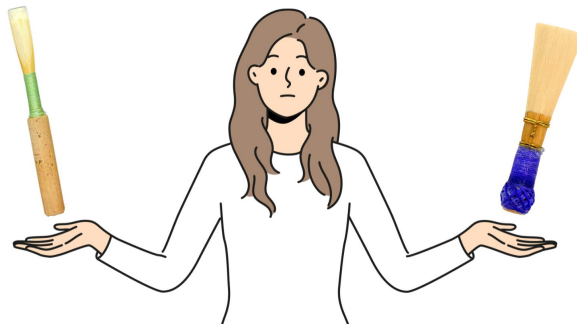
Think of the note as a tube. You want the vibrato to flow through the tube:



More Information:

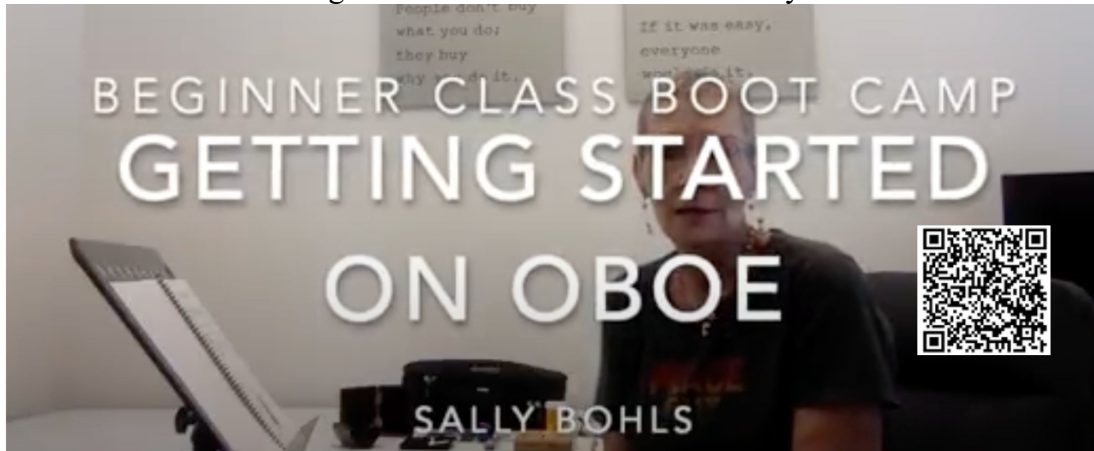
- You will feel a big pull (tightening) in your core.
- Do not move your jaw!!
- Your jaw and the muscles on your face do not move.

Questions / Need Help? Contact us!
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Some Helpful QR Code Links to Videos by Sally and Jennifer

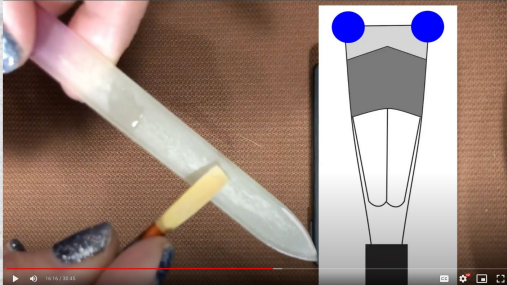
Oboe Beginner Introduction Video with Sally Bohls:



Bassoon Beginner Introduction Video with Jennifer Auerbach:

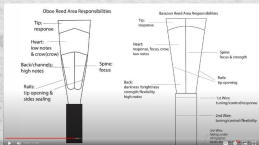


Oboe and Bassoon Reed Adjusting Tips by Sally and Jennifer (from our recorded virtual TMEA clinic in 2021):





**Easy Oboe & Bassoon
Reed Adjustments
Anyone Can Do!**



**Sally Bohls
&
Jennifer Auerbach**

