

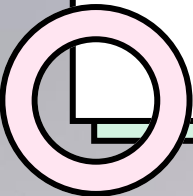


SQUEAKS BE GONE!

CLARINET TIPS FOR ENSEMBLE DIRECTORS

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THE MIDWEST CLINIC 2023





Background

- Assistant Professor of Clarinet – Purdue University Fort Wayne
- Director of the Indiana Clarinet Experience – www.indianacclarinetexperience.com
- DM – Clarinet Performance
 - Indiana University Jacobs School of Music
- MM – Clarinet Performance
 - University of Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music (CCM)
- BM – Clarinet Performance
 - Indiana University Jacobs School of Music

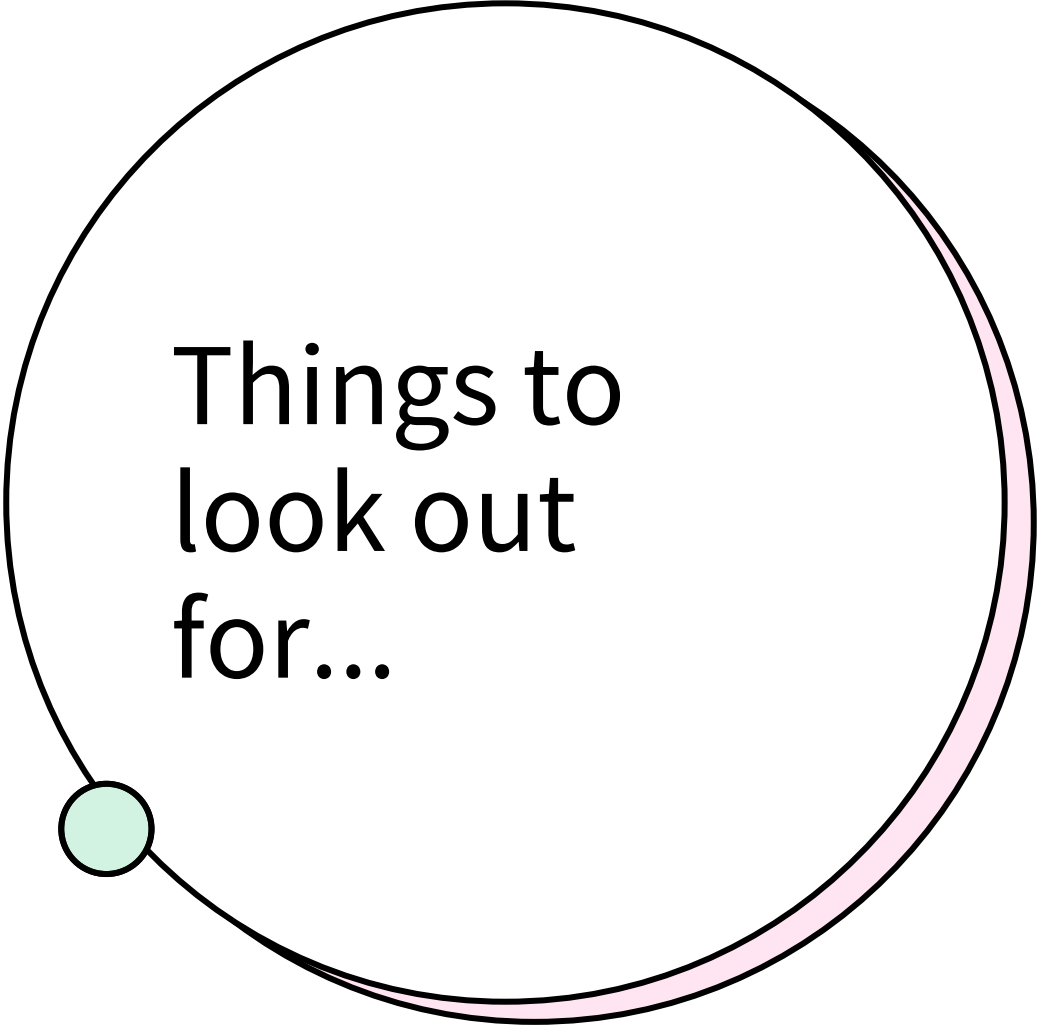




Outer Embouchure: Quick Review

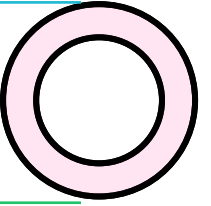
1. Use a mirror - It is our best tool!
 2. Bottom lip against teeth (the bottom lip should not disappear)
 3. Top teeth sit on top of the mouthpiece
 4. Point chin – (look for the chin valley)
 5. Corners in – (look for dimples)
 6. 30-45 degree angle
 7. Right-hand thumb pushes up against the teeth
- Your students should be able to make a perfect embouchure *away* from the instrument
 - First use a straw, then move to the mouthpiece and barrel





Things to
look out
for...

Wobbly mouthpiece



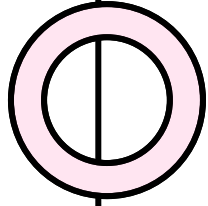
Double Lip

Bunched chin

Too much bottom lip

Cheek puffing

Angle too wide or too small



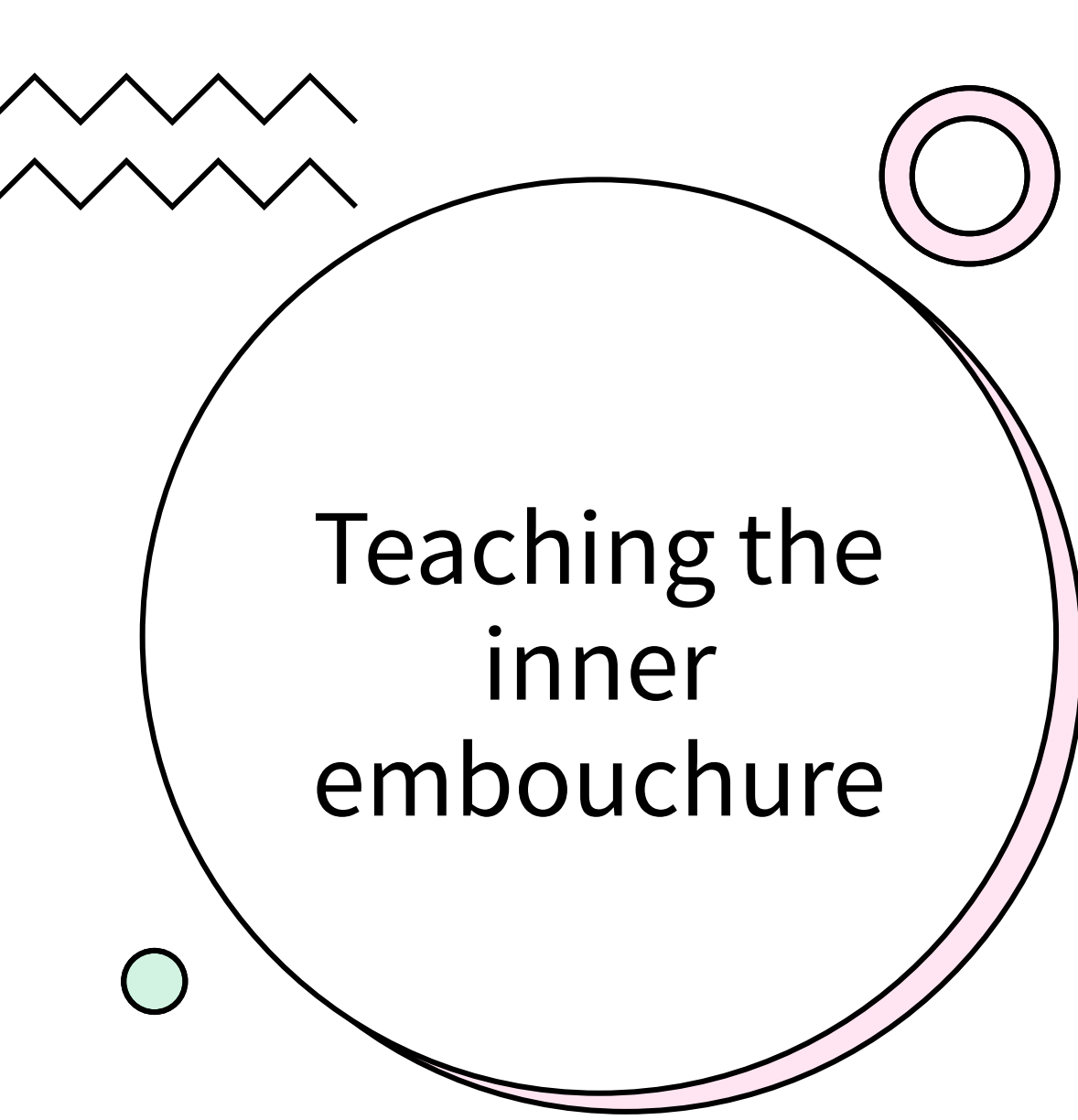
Inside the "Inner Embouchure"




What is it?



How does it affect clarinet
playing?



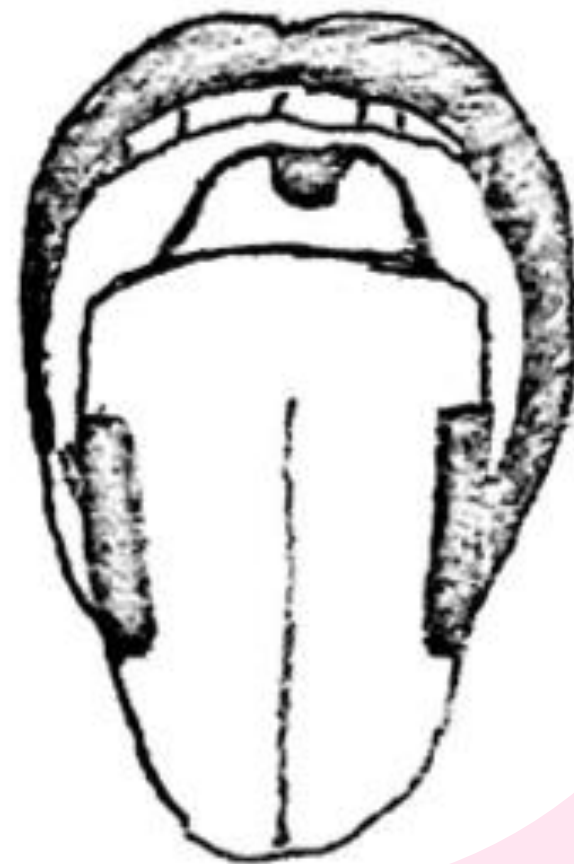
Teaching the inner embouchure

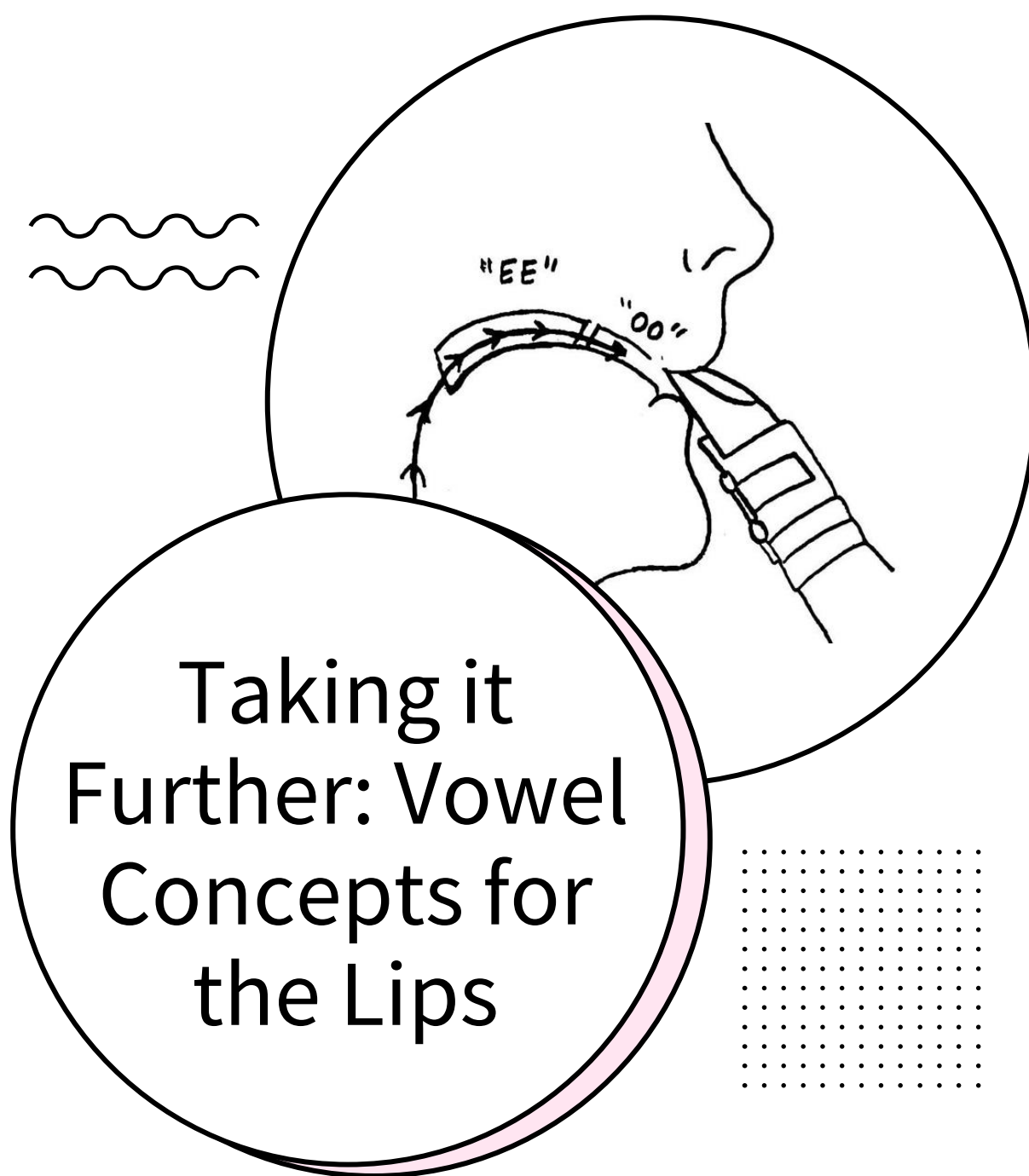
- Hiss like a cat! (Works well for beginners!)
 - Use the words "hee" or "key"
 - Can you feel your molars with the sides of the tongue?
 - The tongue should be arched
 - Very similar to the tongue's natural resting place
- 



SIDES OF THE TONGUE

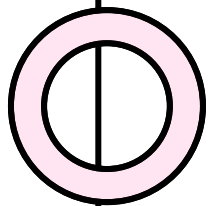
- The shaded areas demonstrate the approximate spots of the sides of the tongue that should graze the upper molars in the "hee" position.
- Image borrowed from *Embouchure Building for Clarinetists* by Larry Guy





Taking it Further: Vowel Concepts for the Lips

- Think "oo" for the lips
- ü - German umlaut is the vowel of choice! – (ee oo)
- The top lip hugs the top teeth and pushes down on the mouthpiece
 - "Aim the sound where front teeth meet the gums"
- Image borrowed from *Embouchure Building for Clarinetists* by Larry Guy



Things to Suggest!



Blow cold air



Aim your notes where your two front teeth meet your gums



Think forward in your mouth



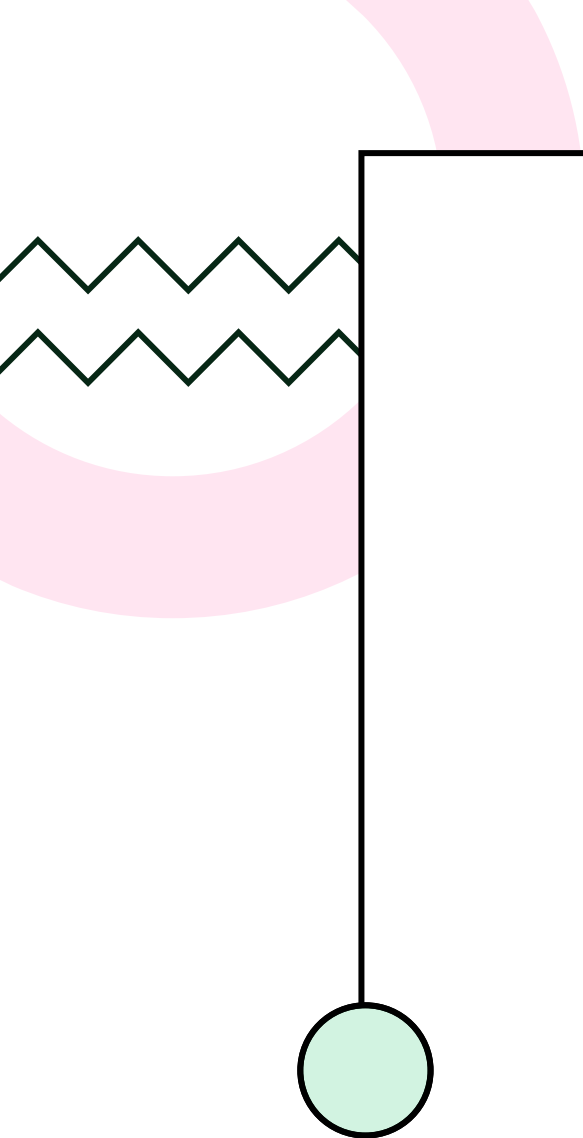
Push down on the mouthpiece with your top lip



Take a breath through a "hee" shape

- Practicing the Inner Embouchure: 12ths!





DIAGNOSING SQUEAKS

WHAT IS THE CLARINET TRYING TO
TELL YOU?





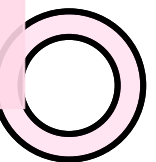
In the Beginning...

Beginner Squeaks

- Too much mouthpiece
- fingers not sealing (fourth finger)
- Hitting a side key

Oral Cavity/Inner Embouchure Too Open

- G, G#/Ab, and A (easy to overblow!)



○ Later...

Inner Embouchure/Oral Cavity is too open or wide

- Squeak on Bb/A in the clarion register (especially when descending)
- Altissimo D/E

Squeaking at the start of notes (especially when tonguing)

- Embouchure movement at the start of notes

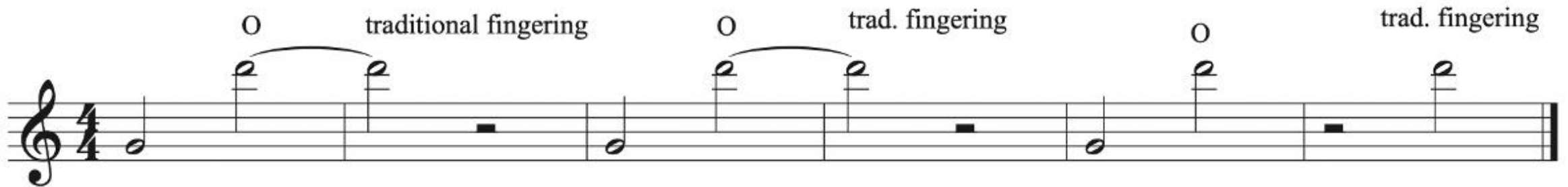
Soft chirp

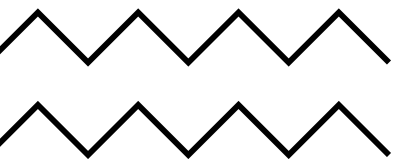
- Reed is dead (too old)
- Have students label the back of their reeds the date they opened them



○ Training the Tongue: Honks and Squeaks! (Advanced Students)

1. Use the lower-note fingering for the upper pitches. (O is for overblown)
2. Start the notes in the 1st and 3rd measures with a breath attack.
3. At the start of the 2nd and 4th measures, transition to the traditional fingering.
4. Articulate the final measure of each line with the traditional fingering.
5. Repeat on different starting notes.





A gift for your students!

- Use the QR code to access exercises for your students to practice over the holiday break! 😊





**ANY
QUESTIONS?**

Further Exploration



*Embouchure
Building for
Clarinet Players –*
Larry Guy

*The Clarinet
Doctor – Howard
Klug*





THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING MY SESSION!

KYLIE STULTZ-DESSENT

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