

WOODWIND TECHNIQUE - BEGINNER CLARINET

1. Curl your bottom lip over with your top teeth poking out (like Bugs Bunny!). This is the mouth shape for the clarinet.
2. Hold the clarinet with your right thumb under the thumb rest and your left thumb on the hole at the back of the clarinet.
3. Place your left first finger on the first hole at the front of the clarinet - this is the note E.
4. Place your mouth with the curled bottom lip on the mouthpiece, top teeth resting on the mouthpiece. Close your lips around your teeth so no air escapes. Bite fairly hard on to the mouthpiece and blow quite hard.
5. If you get a loud squeak then you have too much mouthpiece in your mouth. Practise putting less in until you find the exact spot where you can play a note without squeaking.
6. If no note comes out you probably need to bite harder or to blow harder. Practise playing E until it comes out clearly every time.
7. Put your fingers on for E and add your second finger - this is the note D.
8. Put your fingers on for D and add your third finger - this is the note C. Practise these three notes until you can play them clearly every time.