



## Growing Your Double Reed Section

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### WHY DOUBLE REEDS

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- Complete aesthetic experience in Band
  - Expands your instrumentation, range of timbres
  - Expands your literature options – independent parts for double reeds
  - Expands solo and ensemble options
- Invest in your students' future
  - Educational and Scholarship opportunities
  - Always in demand – collegiate and community ensembles

### CHARACTERISTICS – WHO AND WHEN

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Because you will likely have very few double reed instruments compared to the other woodwinds, you will want to select potential oboists and bassoonists carefully.

#### Who – Personality Traits

- Curious, patient
- Problem Solvers
- Hardworking, intelligent
- Individualistic
- Discerning ear
- Oboe – diva (lots of solos – lots of attention)
- Bassoon – team player (rarely solos – needs to blend and support)

#### Who – Physical Traits

- Both instruments have a larger-than-average spread between fingers
- Bassoon – weight and size of the instrument is a concern for beginners
- Choose students whose physical weakness on their current instrument could actually be helped on a double reed. For example:
  - Flute: good sound, technique, but unable to sustain long enough phrases – could work better on double reed
  - Clarinet: good support, dexterity, but unable to consistently find the high enough position needed in the mouth (ee-oo) – double reeds use a lower, more neutral position

## **WHEN – STARTING VS. SWITCHING**

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### **Starting**

#### **Benefits**

- Puts double reed students on equal footing with peers
- More time to develop their skills
- Integration of double reeds earlier – rest of the band benefits

#### **Challenges**

- Physical size (especially bassoon)
- Limited Equipment
  - Access to Instruments
  - Access to Reeds

#### **Strategies for success**

- Utilize elementary classroom and music teachers
  - Can give insight into a student's musical and mental aptitude
  - Insight (possibly) into a student's family/financial situation
  - Targeted selection can help reduce attrition
- Start students with previous musical experience (i.e. piano lessons)

### **Switching**

#### **Benefits**

- Gives students more time to grow; better able to handle weight and finger span of double reed instruments
- Fills out your instrumentation
- Allows students to gain musical experience before introducing challenges of double reeds
- Doubling on instruments offers more performance opportunities

#### **Challenges**

- Students switching are behind their peers – it's harder to be bad at something while everyone else is ahead
- Are they still required to play another instrument (i.e. marching band requirements)? More instruments equals:
  - More time
  - More money

#### **Strategies for Success**

- Select someone who is already demonstrating success on current instrument
- Switch from other woodwind instruments
- Focus on similarities rather than differences

## RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION STRATEGIES

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- Actively recruit these instruments
  - Bring in students, professionals and/or groups to demonstrate both instruments
  - Play videos of exciting groups like The Breaking Winds Bassoon Quartet
  - Start students in pairs
  - Switch someone who will contribute to the band for years
- Create a district-wide double reed class
- Financial Assistance
  - Subsidize or pay for private lessons, reeds
- Help find private instructors
  - Skype/Facetime lessons
  - Recorded lessons
- Create a list of Endangered Instruments for your program
  - Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra Endangered Instruments Program
  - <https://syso.org/programs/endangered-instruments/>
- Marching Band – is this required for double reed students?
  - Engage double reed students during the marching band season
    - Chamber music
    - Solo music
    - Mentor programs
  - Do not overload double reed students
- Encourage students to participate in honor ensembles/summer camps

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## Oboe Resources

<b>Essential Equipment</b>	
Swab or Feather	Swabs: silk or cotton – check for tangles/knots Feathers: turkey or pheasant – trim the fuzz and cut a V at the top
Water Cup	
Cigarette or Pad Paper	
Cork Grease	
Reed Case	Should hold at least three: <a href="https://www.mmimports.com/product-category/oboe-accessories/oboe-reed-cases/">https://www.mmimports.com/product-category/oboe-accessories/oboe-reed-cases/</a>

## **Instruments**

<b>Oboes: Beginner Models</b>		
Make	Model	Notes
Yamaha	241	Both are good options priced close to \$3,000. Very few open tone holes (good for small hands). Basic key work: no low B-flat or left F on the Yamaha (both standard on the Howarth).
Howarth	S20C	

<b>Oboes: Intermediate Models</b>		
Make	Model	Notes
Yamaha	441	Priced around \$3,300. Good sound with most key work necessary for high school students.
Fox Renard	330	Priced around \$3,700. Nearly full conservatory key work
K. Ge	Lan Mei Standard	Priced around \$2,200. Call Innoledy directly, as the website is not always up-to-date. Great value for the money! <a href="http://www.innoledy.com/oboes_kge.html">http://www.innoledy.com/oboes_kge.html</a>

<b>Oboes: Professional Models</b>		
Make		Notes
Yamaha	Howarth	Professional models range from \$6,000-10,000 new. Students interested in purchasing these should do so in consultation with a professional oboist, or at the very least through a reputable vendor:  Hannah's Oboes: <a href="http://www.hannahsoboos.com/">http://www.hannahsoboos.com/</a> Midwest Musical Imports: <a href="http://www.mmimports.com">www.mmimports.com</a>
Loree	Fox	
Marigaux		

<b>Double Reed Supplies</b>	
Advantage USA Reeds	<a href="http://www.advantage-usa.com">http://www.advantage-usa.com</a>
Charles Double Reeds	<a href="http://www.charlesmusic.com">http://www.charlesmusic.com</a>
Forrests Music	<a href="https://www.forrestsmusic.com">https://www.forrestsmusic.com</a>
Midwest Musical Imports	<a href="https://www.mmimports.com">https://www.mmimports.com</a>
RDG Woodwinds	<a href="https://www.rdgwoodwinds.com">https://www.rdgwoodwinds.com</a>

<b>Double Reed Resources</b>	
Trevco Varner Music	<a href="https://www.trevcomusic.com">https://www.trevcomusic.com</a>
Obonik: handmade oboe reeds	<a href="http://www.obonik.com">http://www.obonik.com</a>
<i>Oboe Art and Method</i> by Martin Schuring	<a href="#">Addresses fundamentals of oboe, reed making, practicing, etc.</a>

## Bassoon Resources

<b>Essential Equipment</b>	
Seat Strap (no neck strap!)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pro Tec A242 Leather Bassoon Non-Slip Seat Strap-Adj. Elastic Cup</li> <li>• Fox Bassoon Straps - Seat Strap with Hook (only if boot joint has hole or ring to put hook through)</li> <li>• Avoid (cup gets caught in bassoon keys):               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ LM Bassoon Seat Strap w/Leather Cup</li> <li>▪ Neotech Bassoon Seat Strap</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Silk swab	Hodge silk bassoon swab
Water Cup/Cork Grease	
Reed Case	Should hold at least three: <a href="https://hodgeproductsinc.com/reed-cases/bassoon-reed-cases/">https://hodgeproductsinc.com/reed-cases/bassoon-reed-cases/</a>

**Instruments** – Always seek the advice of professional before purchasing

<b>Bassoons: Beginner Models</b> (approximately \$3000-5500)		
Make	Model	Notes
Fox Renard	41 or 51	Short-reach key for LH ring finger (good for middle school). Durable. Polypropylene. Consider used (with input from professional).

<b>Bassoons: Intermediate Models</b> (approximately \$5000-9000)		
Make	Model	Notes
Fox Renard	Model III/IV, 240, 220, 222	<b>Model III/IV</b> - Durable. Polypropylene. Excellent choice for high school. Professional level keywork. Great sound. Consider used. <b>222</b> – Most durable of wood instruments. Customize keywork (add high D and whisper key lock). Consider used (with input from professional).

**Bassoons: Professional Models** (approximately \$9000-\$30,000 plus) –  
**seek advice of professional**

<b>Instrument Rental</b>
<b>Midwest Musical Imports</b> - <a href="https://www.mmimports.com/services/instrument-rental/">https://www.mmimports.com/services/instrument-rental/</a> - One of the only places that rents bassoons. Excellent choice.
<b>IQInstrumentRentals.com</b> - Avoid for bassoon rentals. Cheap no-name instruments.

<b>Bassoon Resources</b>	
Reeds – Jones Bassoon Reed – Medium Strength	Available multiple sources online
Music and the Bassoon (excellent progressive lessons, videos, play-along duets, self-paced)	<a href="http://www.musicandthebassoon.org/">http://www.musicandthebassoon.org/</a>
Fingering Charts	<a href="http://davidawells.com/resources/fingering-charts/">http://davidawells.com/resources/fingering-charts/</a>
International Double Reed Society	<a href="https://www.idrs.org/">https://www.idrs.org/</a>
Facebook - International Double Reed Society (excellent resource to ask questions)	
<b>Primary Handbook for Bassoon</b> by Richard Polonchak (method for self taught bassoonists)	

<b>Bassoon Videos</b>	
The Breaking Winds Bassoon Quartet	<a href="https://www.thebreakingwinds.com/">https://www.thebreakingwinds.com/</a>
Jazz Bassoon	Paul Hanson, Michael Rabinowitz, Alexandre Silvério
Bassoon covers	Youtube bassoon quartets – lots of great stuff!