



Margret Löbner  
Blockflötenzentrum  
Bremen

## Breaking in and taking care of your recorder

With the following tips on breaking in and taking care of your recorder I would like to help you reach the optimal sound development.

Before every session you should warm up the head joint of the recorder to body temperature.

In the first week play the new instrument every day for 5 minutes in the lower octave. It is important that you play long, smooth tunes (one tune per inhalation) and all tempered semitones. In the second week you play ten minutes daily staying within the lower octave.

In the following six weeks you should increase playing time weekly for about 5 minutes and expand the range of tones for 4 tones. Additionally you can slowly start to play melodies and sonatas. After about 2 weeks your recorder is broken in well. The possible session time now varies with every individual instrument. There you will have to develop a feeling of how far you can strain your recorder.

After every session the recorder has to be wiped dry thoroughly.

On recorders made from exotic woods the internal bore has to be oiled regularly. Use recorder oil (sweet almond oil), a recorder stick and a cotton cloth for that process. Oil your instrument once a month and in a dry state only. Avoid bringing the block in touch with the oil and wipe out remains off the recorder several hours after oiling to avoid a hardening of the oil.

Regard that the fittings of the recorder parts are not too tight or loosely. If they are too tight, pieces could crack- if too loose the responsiveness of the high notes could get impaired.

For the environment of your recorder avoid much too dry air falling below 50% relative humidity, too strong heat exposure and high temperature fluctuations.

In the breaking- in- time you will already notice, how strength of tone and expressiveness of your recorder will develop increasingly beautiful. In my experience you will get optimal results following these breaking in and taking care- advices. Should you have problems with your instrument despite of carefully breaking it in, you are welcome to contact me any time.

I wish you much of pleasure with your new recorder.  
Sincerely your MARGRET LÖBNER