

CLARIPATCH JUNIOR BÖHM CLARINET

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

One Claripatch Junior set contains

- 1 set of 4 different types of Claripatch
- a pinch-patch ring with screw and screwdriver
- a plastic pocket
- printed instructions

What are Claripatch?

Claripatch are very thin and reusable aluminium coated plastic patches cut with high precision in different shapes. Claripatch are placed between the reed and the mouthpiece of the clarinet. Claripatch allows you to make the most of your reeds as well as noticeably prolong their life expectancy, all without having to modify your mouthpiece in any way.

The philosophy behind Claripatch is that you no longer need to change your technique to suit your reed; by choosing the suitable Claripatch you can adapt each reed to your normal technique.

How does Claripatch work?

Claripatch adapts the curvature of the mouthpiece facing to optimise the reed's vibrations. It also reduces energy loss caused by the reed hitting the lay, and thus Claripatch creates the pleasant sensation of greater flexibility. Contrary to other existing systems, Claripatch allows modification of all parameters of the curvature: not only the length of the facing and the size of the opening of the mouthpiece, but also the overall form of the curvature.

The four Claripatch – Profiles

Two years of research were necessary to bring the system to fruition. Four profiles among hundreds of prototypes were chosen in order to address the reed problems regularly encountered. For a new or ageing reed, for one that is too hard or too weak there is a Claripatch profile.

Claripatch is a precision product

The four Claripatch profiles modify the curvature of your mouthpiece by 2 to 5 one-hundredths of a millimetre with a degree of accuracy of ± 2 microns. The pinch-patch ring allows you to maintain this same precision once you place a patch on your mouthpiece. The material used in the fabrication of Claripatch is non-toxic, food compatible and extremely strong; it is a type of plastic that is also used in space programs.

Generally speaking, clarinetists who use a mouthpiece with a small to moderate tip opening, a fairly long facing, a firm reed, and who take a relatively large amount of the mouthpiece while exercising moderate pressure with the lips, will obtain the best results with Claripatch.

How to use Claripatch

Mount your pinch-patch ring as follows (see pictures): unscrew the ring sufficiently to be able to place it at the base of your mouthpiece. Use a standard reed (67.5 mm long) and position it in the normal fashion, then bring the ring forward to the butt of the reed. Gently tighten the screw. You will achieve best results in positioning the reed when it is still possible to remove and reset the ring without touching the screw. It is advisable to always leave the ring in place on the mouthpiece in order to avoid any pressure that could break it. The ring is made out of polymer reinforced with fibreglass, which makes it strong, but also prone to break if unduly stressed.

For users of shorter reeds (in particular German clarinets) the ring can be positioned higher up on the mouthpiece, but each patch must be shortened very carefully to suit the length of each reed.



Place one or more patches into the prescribed place on the pinch-patch ring. Set the butt of the reed flush to the ring and let the reed drop onto the lay. It will already be in almost the exact position. Hold it in place with the tip of the thumb of the hand holding the clarinet, then centre the patch and reed using the thumb and third finger of the other hand. Set the reed in the usual fashion then play. To remove the reed it is advisable to slide it off to the side in order to avoid any adhesion between the reed and the patch.

Care

Claripatch are extremely resistant but all the same must be handled with care to ensure their full life expectancy. Claripatch are washable with water.

Characteristics of the various Claripatch profiles

Each Claripatch has been developed to solve a particular problem.

Profile	Reed	Reed strength	Function
L length	new	reduces	Allows the reed to vibrate over a greater length and renders sound production supple and comfortable, yet keeps a clear tone. Particularly well adapted for use with new reeds. Serves as a “can opener” for very strong reeds. Helps the player to hold a good abdominal support while keeping the lip pressure to a minimum.
N nobility	old	increases slightly	Gives back an ageing reed its nobility, improves its pianissimo and renders staccato passages clean and easy. The reed can tolerate a higher degree of lip pressure.
F force	hard	reduces	Reduces the apparent strength of a reed. Its sound becomes supple and easy, but its ff is less powerful with the same lip pressure. It can be used very effectively in combination with an L to render a new reed more pleasant and also to protect it when breaking it in.
S soft	soft	increases	Gives back strength to a reed that has become feeble.

In order to break in a new reed, put a F and a L on top of each other and play the reed for a few days. Play it for a few minutes at the beginning and increase gradually the playing time. After a few days the reed will become softer and you will not be able to play it as loudly as before. At this stage take away the F or the L, according to your preference. The reed will be playable very well for a few weeks. As it becomes even softer, play it without a Claripatch and thereafter with a S or a N, according to your preference. At the end you can play it with a S and with a N until it is not usable anymore.

In summary there exist 5 degrees of reed strength:

Reed	hard	slightly hard	medium	slightly soft	soft
Claripatch-profile	F+L	F or L	no Claripatch	S or N	S+N

Claripatch is protected by pending patents and by a registered trademark.