

Clarinet Problems and Solutions

If you are having trouble playing the clarinet with a beautiful tone or you have trouble matching pitch with your clarinet section, then you are probably doing one or more of the following:

- Not taking enough mouthpiece into your mouth
- Playing on a reed that's chipped or cracked, or just too soft (like a #1 or #1.5)
- Playing with the mouthpiece in front of your teeth. This will cause your mouth to be too closed, resulting in an unsupported embouchure and *flat pitch*. The mouthpiece should be *between* the teeth.
- Puffing cheeks out OR not exactly puffing them out, but still letting too much air between your teeth and cheeks. If you feel ANY air in cheeks, you need to tighten your cheek muscles.
- Your *top* teeth are not on the mouthpiece. They should be.
- Corners of your mouth are loose, not firm. They should keep your mouthpiece from moving side to side AND keep air from escaping around it.
- *Bottom* lip is not over your bottom teeth. It should be *between* your reed and your bottom teeth.