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> Yamaha YRF-21Y Plastic Fife Instruction Manual

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Model: YRF-21Y

INTRODUCTION

The Yamaha YRF-21Y Fife is a versatile musical instrument designed to be played to the side, similar to a flute, yet featuring open holes and simple fingerings akin to a recorder. This design makes it an excellent tool for recorder players transitioning to the flute or for new musicians beginning their journey with wind instruments. It is also suitable for playing traditional fife music, including historical pieces. Constructed from durable and lightweight ABS plastic, the fife disassembles into two pieces for convenient cleaning and maintenance. This model is pitched in the Key of C.





Image: The Yamaha YRF-21Y Plastic Fife, showing its complete assembled form.

SETUP

The Yamaha YRF-21Y Fife comes in two main pieces: the headjoint and the body. Assembly is straightforward.

1. **Unpack Components:** Carefully remove the headjoint and body from the cotton carrying bag.
2. **Assemble the Fife:** Gently twist the headjoint onto the body. Ensure the alignment of the embouchure hole (lip plate) on the headjoint is perpendicular to the finger holes on the body. Do not force the pieces together; a gentle twisting motion should suffice.
3. **Initial Cleaning:** Before first use, it is recommended to wipe down the exterior of the fife with a soft, dry cloth.



Image: The Yamaha YRF-21Y Plastic Fife, disassembled into its two main parts, alongside its cotton carrying bag.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Playing the Yamaha YRF-21Y Fife involves proper embouchure (lip position) and finger placement over the open holes.

1. Holding the Fife

- Hold the fife horizontally to the side, similar to a flute.
- Your left hand should be closer to the headjoint, and your right hand closer to the footjoint.
- Ensure your fingers are curved and positioned to cover the open holes completely when required.

2. Producing Sound (Embouchure)

- Place the molded flute-style lip plate against your chin, with your lower lip covering approximately one-quarter to one-third of the embouchure hole.
- Form a small, focused aperture (opening) with your lips.
- Direct a steady, focused stream of air across the embouchure hole, aiming for the opposite edge. Experiment with the angle and speed of your air stream to produce a clear tone.
- A relaxed embouchure is key to producing a good sound. Avoid excessive tension in your lips or jaw.

3. Fingering

- The fife utilizes open-hole fingerings. Each hole must be completely covered by a finger to produce the intended note.
- A fingering chart is included with your Yamaha YRF-21Y Fife. Refer to this chart for specific finger positions for each note in the Key of C.
- Practice covering the holes firmly but gently to prevent air leakage, which can result in airy or unfocused sounds.

MAINTENANCE

Regular maintenance will ensure the longevity and optimal performance of your Yamaha YRF-21Y Plastic Fife.

- **After Each Use:**
 - Disassemble the fife into its two pieces.
 - Wipe the inside of both pieces with a clean, soft cloth to remove moisture. A cleaning rod (not included) with a cloth can be used for thorough drying.
 - Wipe the exterior of the fife with a soft, dry cloth to remove fingerprints and dust.
- **Cleaning:** The ABS plastic body can be cleaned with mild soap and lukewarm water if necessary. Ensure all soap residue is rinsed off and the fife is completely dry before reassembly or storage. Do not use harsh chemicals or

abrasive materials.

- **Storage:** Store the fife in its included cotton carrying bag when not in use. This protects it from dust and minor impacts. Store in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight or extreme temperatures.

TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter issues while playing your Yamaha YRF-21Y Fife, consider the following common problems and solutions:

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
No sound or airy sound	Incorrect embouchure, insufficient air support, or holes not fully covered.	Adjust lip position and air stream. Ensure all open holes are completely sealed by your fingers. Practice long tones to develop consistent air support.
Notes are out of tune	Improper embouchure, inconsistent air pressure, or incorrect fingerings.	Refine your embouchure and maintain steady air pressure. Consult the included fingering chart to verify correct finger positions.
Difficulty reaching high notes	Lack of air speed and focus, or embouchure not tight enough.	Increase the speed and focus of your air stream. Slightly tighten your embouchure without tensing your jaw.

SPECIFICATIONS

Model Number: YRF-21Y

Brand: Yamaha

Instrument Key: C

Body Material: ABS Plastic

Construction: 2-piece (Headjoint and Body)

Dimensions: Approximately 13.32 x 0.82 x 0.82 inches (33.83 x 2.08 x 2.08 cm)

Weight: Approximately 1.6 ounces (45.36 grams)

Included Accessories: Cotton carrying bag, Fingering chart

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

Warranty information for your Yamaha YRF-21Y Plastic Fife is typically provided with the product packaging or can be found on the official Yamaha website. Please retain your proof of purchase for warranty claims.

For technical support, product inquiries, or service, please visit the official Yamaha website or contact Yamaha customer service directly. Contact details can usually be found on the Yamaha website or in the documentation accompanying your product.

You can visit the [Yamaha Store on Amazon](#) for more information on Yamaha products.

