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Yamaha YCL650

Yamaha YCL-650 Professional Bb Clarinet Instruction Manual

Model: YCL-650

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INTRODUCTION

This manual provides essential instructions for the proper assembly, operation, maintenance, and care of your Yamaha YCL-650 Professional Bb Clarinet. Please read this manual thoroughly before using your instrument to ensure optimal performance and longevity. Retain this manual for future reference.

SETUP AND ASSEMBLY

Carefully remove all components from the case. The Yamaha YCL-650 clarinet consists of five main parts: the mouthpiece, barrel, upper joint, lower joint, and bell.

- Lubricate Corks:** Apply a small amount of cork grease to the tenon corks of the barrel, upper joint, and lower joint. This facilitates smooth assembly and prevents damage to the corks and instrument body.
- Assemble Lower and Upper Joints:** Hold the lower joint by the bell ring and the upper joint by the barrel ring. Align the bridge keys carefully to prevent bending. Gently twist the upper joint onto the lower joint. Ensure the bridge keys slide over each other without force.
- Attach Barrel:** Twist the barrel onto the upper joint.
- Attach Mouthpiece:** Gently twist the mouthpiece onto the barrel. Ensure the ligature and reed are not attached during this step.
- Attach Reed and Ligature:** Place a moistened reed onto the mouthpiece, aligning it so the tip is slightly below the tip of the mouthpiece. Secure it with the ligature, tightening the screws just enough to hold the reed firmly without overtightening.



Image: An assembled Yamaha YCL-650 Professional Bb Clarinet, showcasing its grenadilla wood body and silver-plated keys. The mouthpiece, barrel, upper joint, lower joint, and bell are clearly visible.

OPERATING YOUR CLARINET

Holding the Instrument

Hold the clarinet with your left hand on the upper joint and your right hand on the lower joint. The right thumb should rest under the thumb rest, providing support. Maintain a relaxed posture to allow for proper breath support and finger movement.

Embouchure and Tone Production

Form an embouchure by placing the mouthpiece in your mouth with the upper teeth resting on the top of the mouthpiece and the lower lip slightly curled over the lower teeth, supporting the reed. Apply gentle, even pressure around the mouthpiece with your lips. Blow a steady stream of air to produce a clear tone. Experiment with air speed and embouchure pressure to achieve desired pitch and timbre.

Fingering

The Yamaha YCL-650 features a standard Boehm fingering system. Refer to a clarinet fingering chart for specific note placements. Ensure all tone holes are completely covered by your fingers to prevent air leaks and produce clear notes.

MAINTENANCE AND CARE

Regular maintenance is crucial for the longevity and performance of your clarinet.

After Each Use

- **Swab the Bore:** Use a cleaning swab to remove moisture from the inside of the clarinet. Pass the swab through each joint (bell, lower joint, upper joint, barrel) multiple times until dry.

- **Clean Mouthpiece:** Remove the reed and ligature. Rinse the mouthpiece with lukewarm water and clean with a mouthpiece brush. Dry thoroughly.
- **Wipe Keys and Body:** Use a soft, lint-free cloth to gently wipe down the silver-plated keys and grenadilla wood body to remove fingerprints and oils. Avoid excessive pressure on the keys.
- **Store Properly:** Disassemble the clarinet and place all parts back into its protective case. Ensure the case is closed securely.

Periodic Maintenance (Monthly/Quarterly)

- **Cork and Tenon Care:** Reapply cork grease to tenon corks as needed to keep them supple and prevent sticking.
- **Key Oil:** Apply a tiny drop of key oil to the pivot screws of the keys to ensure smooth operation. Wipe away any excess immediately.
- **Pad Inspection:** Check pads for wear, tears, or stickiness. Sticky pads can be gently cleaned with a piece of cigarette paper or specialized pad cleaning paper.

Professional Servicing

It is recommended to have your clarinet professionally serviced by a qualified instrument technician at least once a year for thorough cleaning, adjustment, and pad replacement as necessary.

TROUBLESHOOTING COMMON ISSUES

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Difficulty producing sound or squeaking	Improper embouchure, damaged reed, air leaks from uncovered tone holes or worn pads.	Adjust embouchure, replace reed, ensure all tone holes are covered, check pads for leaks.
Keys sticking or slow to respond	Dirt or corrosion on pivot screws, sticky pads, bent keys.	Clean and oil pivot screws, clean sticky pads, consult a technician for bent keys.
Flat or sharp intonation	Incorrect embouchure, barrel length, temperature changes.	Adjust embouchure, pull out or push in the barrel slightly, allow instrument to warm up.
Cracks in wood body	Sudden changes in temperature or humidity, lack of proper oiling.	Maintain stable environment, oil bore periodically. <i>Consult a professional technician immediately for repair.</i>

SPECIFICATIONS

Model: Yamaha YCL-650

Key: Bb

Body Material: Grenadilla Wood

Key Material: Silver-plated

Mouthpiece: Yamaha 4CM

Dimensions: Approximately 14.2 x 8.2 x 4.2 inches (packaged)

Weight: Approximately 5 pounds (packaged)

WARRANTY INFORMATION

Yamaha musical instruments typically come with a limited warranty covering manufacturing defects. For specific warranty terms, duration, and registration procedures, please refer to the warranty card included with your instrument or visit the official Yamaha website. Keep your proof of purchase for warranty claims.

Note: Damage resulting from improper use, lack of maintenance, or unauthorized repairs is not covered under warranty.

CUSTOMER SUPPORT

For further assistance, technical support, or inquiries regarding your Yamaha YCL-650 Clarinet, please contact Yamaha customer service through their official website or the contact information provided in your instrument's documentation.

- **Yamaha Official Website:** www.yamaha.com
- **Service Center Locator:** Visit the Yamaha website to find authorized service centers in your region.

