

First Magical Moments

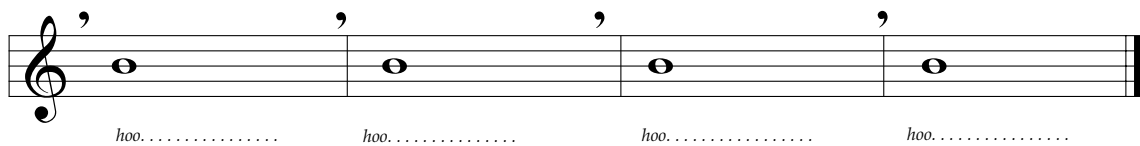
Posture: Sit on the front half of a solid chair with good posture and with feet flat on the floor. Be sure head is level and have music placed at eye level (music stand).

Hand Position: **Left Hand on the top keys** with thumb over the hole in back of the clarinet and fingers over the holes in front in a “C” formation. **Right Hand on the bottom keys.** Place right thumb under the clarinet’s “thumb rest” in the back of the clarinet, with “thumb rest” between the knuckle and thumbnail. Curve fingers over the keys in front in a backwards “C” formation.

Mouth Formation (Embouchure): Flatten chin muscles and keep them pulled down, tuck corners of mouth back slightly and curve bottom lip part-way over teeth. Place reed/mouthpiece into mouth about 1/2 inch, with top teeth resting on top of mouthpiece. To take a breath, open the sides of your mouth while keeping mouth and teeth in place, and inhale air from the diaphragm area. As you blow, feel the diaphragm muscles pushing the air through the instrument. Never take breaths through your nose to play the clarinet.


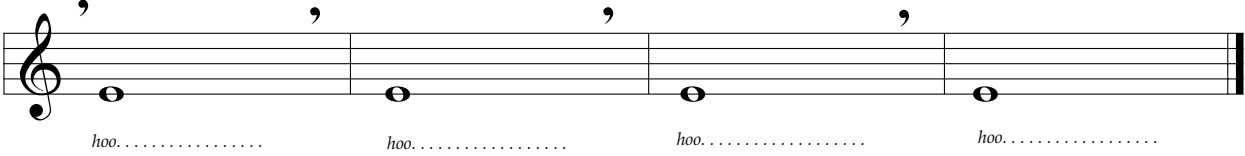
Long Tones on Mouthpiece/Barrel


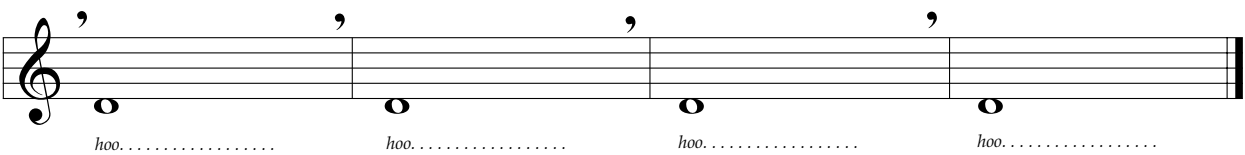
Below is one line of long tones for mouthpiece/barrel only. Before each tone you will see a comma. In music this is called a “breath mark.” Take a BIG breath before each tone and say “hoo” to push air through the instrument to produce a tone. (On Page #1 you will begin to tongue the reed to begin your tones.)



Long Tones on Entire Clarinet

Below are three lines of tones to learn **E**, **D** and **C** on the clarinet. Play each line two times, taking a BIG breath for each long tone. Be patient with yourself. It takes time to be able produce good tones.

E  

D  

C 