

DOLMETSCH MILLENNIUM GREAT BASS RECORDER

This instrument should be treated just like any other recorder -

- do not drop it;
- place it down carefully so that it is supported along its whole length;
- take the instrument apart when not in use to prevent over-compression of the cork seals;
- do not lie it on its key-work as this can damage the mechanism;
- do not leave it in direct sunlight or in extremely cold or wet surroundings;
- after use, remove the small plug at the top of the head section to help the windway dry;
- allow it to dry thoroughly between periods of use - leave the case open to aid ventilation;
- apply a small amount of grease to the cork seals to prevent loss of elasticity;
- apply a small amount of cork grease to the cork lapping on the end pins should they feel dry;
- to maintain the finish on the cherry-wood and veneer, apply a small amount of clear wax.

The sections are held together with compression catches that should never leak. When securing or opening the catches, operate both catches at the same time to prevent damage to the cork seals.

The interior of the bore is coated with a high-quality exterior-grade varnish and requires no after-sales attention. You do not even have to swab the bore after use as the varnish seals all the interior surfaces including the European boxwood linings around the tone-holes.

Under normal conditions, the key-work should also be trouble-free. However, if any part of the mechanism jams, we recommend taking the instrument to a good wind-instrument repairman (one used to handling flutes, oboes or clarinets) who will be able to release the mechanism.

Certain parts of the instrument are made of solid cherry-wood - the labium (or ramp), the ceiling and the cap. If these ever need replacing we can supply replacement pieces. We can also supply additional end-pins, spare crooks and extra mouthpieces. The last might be a good idea if a number of people are likely to play this instrument during the course of a session.

We have designed the instrument so that it has a completely chromatic range of over two octaves. The vast majority of the fingerings are standard; however, we recommend:

1. *bottom F natural*:

leave 7a & 7b uncovered, not so much for tuning as for comfort

2. *middle C sharp (D flat)*:

open thumb 23 or **closed thumb alone** is better than **open thumb 12**;
the standard fingering is rather flat - the two alternatives are in tune

The thumb key system operates as follows:

1. thumb off both keys for all 'open' thumbhole notes
2. **lower** key depressed for all 'closed' thumbhole notes
3. **both** keys depressed for all 'pinched' higher notes

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