

# OBOE

The oboe is a double reed instrument. The oboe looks very similar to the clarinet except for the fact that it has a double reed. The oboe is similar to the clarinet in many ways. Both are made from wood and have metal keys that can produce many notes rapidly. It has a nasal, piercing sound because of its double reed. Descended from a Renaissance instrument called the shawm, the oboe developed its modern form in the 17th century with Dutch and French instrument makers.



## Oboe Links

<http://www.idrs.org/>  
<http://oboeinsight.com/>  
<http://oboe.org/>

## How the sound is made

Sound on a woodwind instrument comes from a vibrating column of air inside the instrument. The player makes this column of air vibrate in one of three ways: as air is blown across the top of an instrument (like the flute), across a single reed (like the clarinet), or across two reeds (like the oboe). A single reed is clamped to a mouthpiece at the top of the instrument and vibrates against the mouthpiece when air is blown between the reed and the mouthpiece. Two reeds tied together are commonly known as a double reed. This double reed fits into a tube at the top of the instrument and vibrates when air is forced between the two reeds.

## How the pitch is changed

Woodwind pitch depends on the volume of air that is vibrating. A larger volume vibrates more slowly, for lower pitch; a smaller volume vibrates more quickly, for a higher pitch. For most woodwinds, the player changes pitch by opening and closing holes along the instrument's length. Closing more holes makes the instrument longer, making the notes lower.