

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.