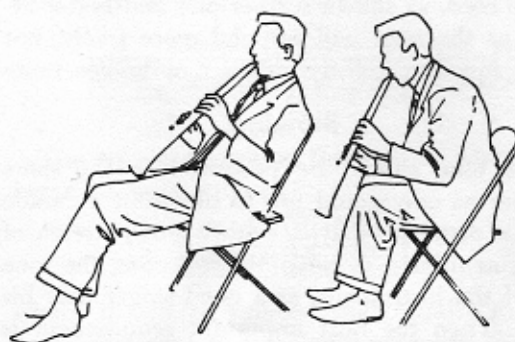


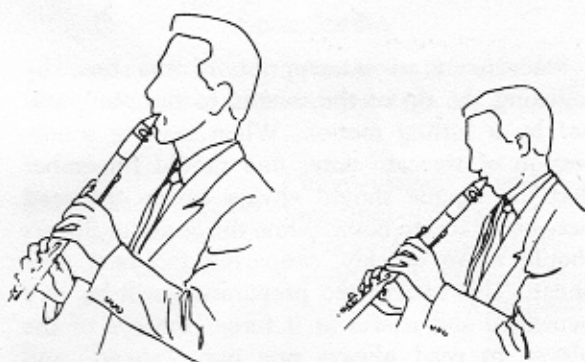
Production of Good Tone

Posture

Correct posture in playing the clarinet is most important as, from it, depends the correct position of the mouthpiece in the mouth and subsequently a perfect embouchure, on which also depends the flexibility of tone for phrasing. The correct posture can be described thus: Body well erect, head looking horizontally forward. The clarinet then should be brought upward to the mouth by the forearms, without bowing the head toward the mouthpiece. Upper arms should stay perpendicular to the body.



EXAMPLES OF INCORRECT POSTURE



CORRECT POSTURE

INCORRECT POSTURE

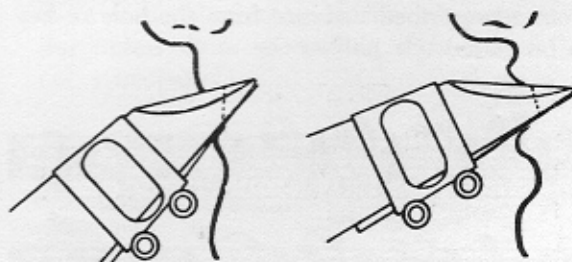
(Head inclined toward mouthpiece)



CORRECT POSTURE

Position of the Mouthpiece in the Mouth

The mouthpiece should be laid on the lower lip (curved inward against the teeth), at about an inch and a half from the tip of the reed, at a 45 degree angle, then the upper jaw should close on the upper part of the mouthpiece, upper teeth falling naturally at about half an inch from the tip of the mouthpiece.



CORRECT MOUTHPIECE POSITION

INCORRECT MOUTHPIECE POSITION

By following these rules one is assured that the mouthpiece will set at the correct angle in the mouth, therefore insuring a good embouchure. At this time I would advocate practicing the clarinet in a standing position, rather than sitting down. I admit that it makes playing much harder for beginners but in the long run it will bring better results as it will eliminate complacency in over-relaxing. In band playing, the little folding chair, that is predominantly used, should be discarded for clarinet sections as it induces a slouching position of the players, the back of the chair being slanted too far back, preventing an erect position of the body as prescribed above.