Instrument: Bassoon

Magazine or Journal Title: The Instrumentalist

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Fetters, Elizabeth Rusch. *Bassoon Repairs on a Limited Budget.* The Instrumentalist. (Oct. 2001).

Article Title: Bassoon Repairs on a Limited Budget

Author: Elizabeth Rusch Fetters

Summary (Outline form):

* Check pads, corks and seal on u-bend
* Repairs to plastic bassoon are usually cheaper than repairs to wood bassoons
* Can apply epoxy to plastic instrument to fill cracks
* If you have two bassoons that don’t work, try to take one apart and make one functioning bassoon from the two
  + - * Works best if they are the same manufacturer
      * Make sure parts fit snugly
      * If they are not similar or the same manufacturer, do not swap them
      * Pick the best bocal for the working bassoon.
* Buy a new bocal if they are both bad- 2-300 dollars but it’s cheaper than a new bassoon
* A new bocal can vastly improve sound on an old instrument
* Each student needs his or her own bocal-do not share! (just like do not share mouthpieces)
* For new instruments, return to factory each year for overhauls
* If you have an old cracked bassoon, don’t bother getting it repaired. It will have more problems that are not immediately obvious
  + - * Could have warped tone holes
      * Disfigured bore
      * Dry rot
      * Deep cracks
* For new wood bassoons, invest in an instrument humidifier (refill weekly and keep in case to prevent cracking)
* Explain to students how to care for their instruments (form good habits)