

Introducing the Alto or Bass Clarinet

SOME SUGGESTIONS TO THE STUDENT

Many players who transfer to the B \flat Bass or E \flat Alto Clarinet find that their tone is thin, fuzzy, and lacking in resonance. Although many factors may cause this, the following suggestions frequently help overcome these deficiencies:

1. BE SURE TO TAKE SUFFICIENT MOUTHPIECE INTO THE MOUTH. You must have more free vibrating reed in your mouth than you had on the soprano instrument.

2. DO NOT CLOSE THE REED TOO TIGHTLY. An embouchure less tight than normally used on the B \flat Clarinet will give best results.

3. DO NOT USE A STIFF REED. Quality and intonation suffer when too hard a reed is used. Optimum results call for a medium or medium-soft strength reed.

The following preliminary studies (none of which calls for change of register) provide easy practice material for developing a full tone.

1 *Slowly*

2 *Firm attack (marcato)*

3 *Slowly*