

How do you get 2 Clarinets to Play IN TUNE??

If you answered “shoot one of them,” you are wrong. That only applies to piccolos.

Instead, follow these simple tuning rules for clarinet.

1. **Make sure your reed is hard enough.** A reed that is too soft offers little resistance, and will cause you to play flat (and have response issues, especially on high notes). On the flip-side, a reed that is too hard can make you play sharp, and you will sound stuffy and “airy”, and will be working way too hard to play the instrument.
2. **Make sure you are following PACCTT.** Poor posture, little air support, an E tongue position (on high notes), articulations with the middle or back of the tongue, and not pushing up with the right thumb are all common causes of flatness.
3. If you are following the above guidelines, then you are ready to tune!
 - **Warm up your instrument.** Use your hands to warm all the parts of the instrument, and blow warm air into the instrument. This is necessary, since the pitch of your instrument will change after you are warmed up.
 - Start with your instrument pushed all the way in at all the joints. **Play an Open G** (concert F). If you are sharp, pull out at the barrel, where the barrel connects to the upper joint. Keep doing this until you are in tune. If you are flat, re-check your compliance with steps 1-2. If you know you’re good with these, use your hands to warm all the parts of the instrument, and blow warm air into the instrument. Try again. If your pitch is still low, you may need a different mouthpiece or a shorter barrel.
 - Once your open G is in tune, you are half-way there. Now, **play your third-space C.** If you’re in tune, then you’re done. If you’re sharp, pull out a hair at your center joint. (if your center joint is loose because you don’t take care of your corks, you may want to avoid adjusting here, or put a little paper around the cork until you can get it replaced)
 - Finally, **play your third-line B** to tune the bell. If you’re sharp, pull the bell out a bit (where the bell attaches to the lower joint). Repeat this process until you’re in tune.

