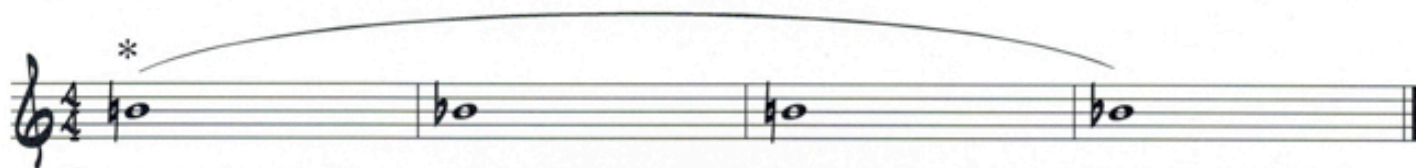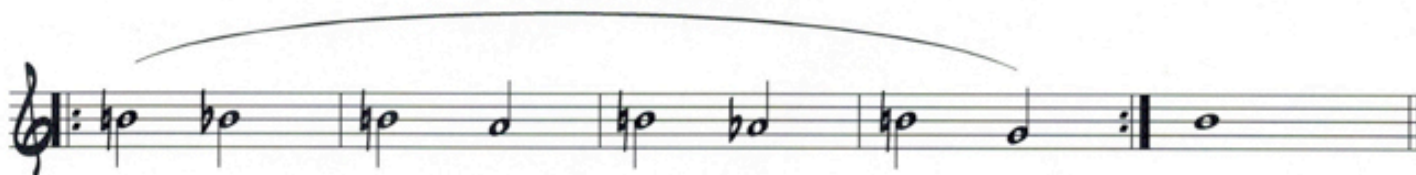# The clarinet break


This is the correct way to approach studying the break of the clarinet.   Play the long note first and the short note second.

*The longest distance between two notes on the clarinet for both air and fingers is between Bb and B natural. This is considered one of the most difficult technical parts of playing the clarinet. It need not be!!! Playing between these two notes is a simple concept. Play the B natural first (Exercise A) filling the clarinet with a good solid air column and let the fingers move to the B flat. It is a natural tendency to blow the air to where our fingers are: EXAMPLE: If we are playing a first line E we tend to fill the clarinet with only enough air to play the E. When we try to play a note like the middle B natural form the E the air column is just not there. That is why the B natural does not respond. When practicing the break of the clarinet we should first play the long note (B natural) filling the clarinet with air and then play the short note (Bb) keeping the air colum the same then when we play the long note again (B natural) the air column will be correct ant the B natural will respond.

For proper response of the clarinet, the air column always fills the instrument as though you were playing a strong low E.
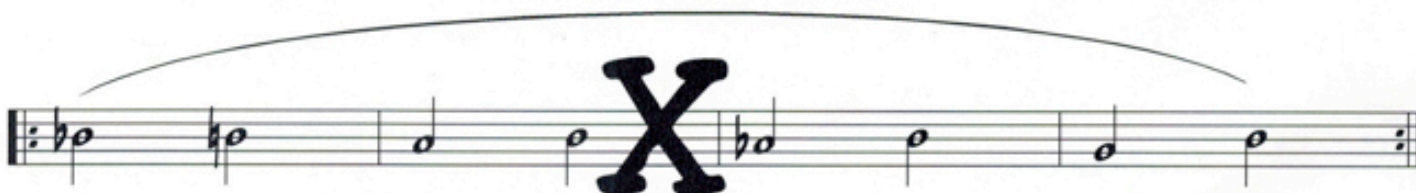

Traditional approach to studying the break of the clarinet. Play the short note first then move to the long note.

In this exercise think of playing a great low E, fill the clarinet with air and let the fingers move from note to note. The air column stays the same! After practicing this concept you will find the clarinet will have a balanced tone color through all the registers, the notes will respond better and it will become as easy to go across the break of the clarinet as any other part of the instrument.

2B2
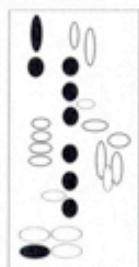
* I recommend using 2B2 for the middle B natural and leaving all the fingers on the right hand down when playing the troat tone notes (Bb, A & Ab) in these exercises.

*The clarinet is a wind instrument and must be filled with air to respond properly.
A proper air column will make playing the clarinet easier to play and life a lot more fun.

Break Short Etude #1

Break Short Etude #2

Break Short Etude #3

Break Exercises