Assembling the Bassoon

In the following pages, you will find a variety of pictures with written descriptions of how to properly assemble the bassoon. To see a video detailing this process, go to northviewbandaid.wordpress.com

Step 1

Before you begin to assemble the instrument, there are two things you will want to do first:
1. Place the case on the ground
2. Place your reed in your reed soaking container

Once you have done these two things, then start with the Boot Joint, (sometimes called the Double Joint). You may set the boot joint either in your lap, or on the ground so long as the side with 2 holes is facing upwards.

Step 2

With the Boot Joint in a safe place, (your lap or standing on the ground), then proceed to take out the Tenor Joint, (often referred to as the Wing Joint). This is the shorter of the two middle sections, and has a fin, or wing shaped part protruding from it’s side.
Take care not to grab with too firm of a grip. You don’t want to risk bending any of the keys. That being said, don’t grab it with too loose of a grip that you wind up dropping the instrument.
Assembling the Bassoon Continued

Step 3

While holding the Boot Joint with the pancake key facing you, take the Tenor or Wing Joint and carefully insert it into the Boot Joint. Use your body as an anchor point for the Boot Joint. The wing/fin of the Tenor Joint should be facing inward toward the empty hole of the Boot Joint.

Step 4

Next, remove the Long or Bass Joint from the case. Take special care of the keys when inserting the Long Joint into the Boot Joint. Use your right hand to keep the Tenor/Wing Joint from moving and then align the Long Joint ensuring a nice fit into the cupped section of the Wing Joint. In order to get a good fit, use your left hand to gently maneuver the Long Joint into place by gently wiggling/twisting it back and forth as you slide it into the Boot Joint.
Assembling the Bassoon Continued

**Step 5**

Hold the Bell Joint with your left hand thumb on the Bell Joint Key. This will help you to align the key on the Long Joint with the Bell Joint without risking damage to the instrument. Avoid twisting the Bell Joint when connecting it to the Long Joint. Always be aware of the keys on both joints when you slide them together.

**Step 6**

The next step is inserting the Bocal into the Wing Joint. As pictured above and to the right, you want to grab the Bocal at the crook, not the end. Bocals are very delicate and expensive. If you grab it at the end and try to insert it, you will bend and break the Bocal. Keep cork grease on the cork to ensure ease of insertion.

When you place the Bocal into the Bassoon, be aware of the key sticking up from the Tenor/Wing Joint that covers the small hole in the Bocal. This key is very fragile and will bend easily, requiring the instrument to go to the repair shop.
Step 7

This next step can be done now, or at the beginning of the setup process. In the video at northviewbandaid.wordpress.com, it is done first. This is up to you, so long as it is on the seat before you sit down. What you see pictured on the left is the seat strap. In the picture is a bucket-style strap, though the kind in the video is preferable for a variety of reasons mentioned there. The seat strap holds the bassoon in a way that eliminated the stress on a player’s neck, and is thus preferred over a neck strap.

Step 8

As you sit on the seat strap with your bassoon fully assembled you will then need to affix the bassoon to the seat strap. This is done either with a ring that slides over the Boot Joint, (in the video), or by sliding the cup of a bucket-style strap, (pictured on right), over the end cap.

Step 9

The final step is placing the reed on the bocal. When doing this, always hold the reed at the threads.