

Mollenhauer 'Canta' 2646K Great Bass Assembly

Despite, or perhaps because of, its size and weight, this recorder has to be handled with great care. The long foot joint levers for the lowest notes are particularly vulnerable.

The position of the parts in the carry case favours right handed players. (If you are left handed it will be better if you disregard your natural choice and follow these suggestions until you are comfortable handling the recorder.) It is best to do the assembly while standing. Put the case on a table or chair. Do not start with it on the floor. It will be helpful to have chair close to you

Build the recorder from the bottom joint up.

Do not grasp any section around the keys.

- 1) Pick up the bottom joint with your right hand, just above the bell, with your thumb below and fingers above.
- 2) Pick up the lower body section (which is next to it in the case) at the socket end, on the left, with your left hand. Hold it with your thumb uppermost, next to the top key.
- 3) Offer the two together, push and wiggle, but do not rotate the parts much. There is a great risk of bending the long keys as they may catch against the lowest keys on the lower middle joint.
- 4) Lay the assembled parts down (on the case or chair).
- 5) Pick up the upper middle joint, thumb above, as before, around the upper end (on the left) with your left hand.
- 6) Pick up the previously assembled parts with your right hand, thumb below, around the socket.
- 7) Offer the two together, push and wiggle, but do not rotate the parts much. Let the parts hang, from your right hand. The keys covering the holes should be in line from one part to the other.
- 8) Lay the assembled parts down (on the case or chair).

- 9) Pick up the head with your left hand, thumb uppermost, just below the window.
- 10) Pick up the 'knick' bend with your right hand, thumb below, around the short section.
- 11) Offer the two together, push and wiggle, finally rotate the parts so as to finish with the 'window' uppermost and the long section pointing downwards.
Never apply force across the knick bend.
- 12) Change your grasp, on the assembled head and knick, to around the socket, with your left hand.
- 13) Pick up the rest of the instrument with your right hand, just above all the keys, (or around the joint in the middle) thumb above as before. If holding it from the top, let it hang, or steady the bell on the chair.
- 14) Offer the two assemblies together, push and wiggle, rotate the parts so as to finish with the keys roughly in line with the 'Mollenhauer' brand on the knick. You can then turn the recorder round and align the thumb hole with the mouth piece to suit yourself.
- 15) Reverse these steps to get the recorder back into the case. Take great care not to grasp the keys or knock them against anything (chair or table).

The guiding principles behind these instructions are to avoid grasping (and bending) any of the keys and to make the assembly of the joints easier by keeping them in line. Never force the joints, wiggling is more effective than just turning, especially with a recorder of this size. (That is the reason for specifying the thumb positions. You should always imagine that you are handling a tool, not breaking a stick.)

Take great care when carrying the recorder. Do not hold it vertically from the head joint. **Never** lift it by the topmost part, above the knick bend. This is an inherently weak point and must never be stressed in any way.

The adjustable pin is useful when playing seated. You will find it easier to make large changes in the length by twisting the parts a little after depressing the button.

I have had queries from players unable to reassemble the parts of the pin after separating them. The plain end of the larger tube is a push fit into the rubber bush at the chamfered end of the black wooden adapter. The button end of the small tube goes into the perforated end of the large tube. The plastic end cover belongs at the end furthest away from the button. (If it has previously been forced onto the larger tube it will probably need glue to hold it in place.)

Saunders Recorders, John Everingham.