

## Flute Repair Emergency Kit

- Pencil case (to store everything)
- Popsicle stick
- Painter's tape / masking tape
- Teflon™ tape / Plumber's tape (PTFE)
- Post-it style sticky notes
- Small scissors
- Small screwdriver
- Dental floss (free trial size from the dentist's office!!)
- Cigarette paper / hair curling paper / Yamaha Cleaning Papers
- Covered hair band (must be fully covered - not metal, no rubber)
- Individually wrapped isopropyl alcohol wipes

### Helpful books for learning flute repair basic concepts:

- *Servicing The Flute*, by JL Smith. Available online at JL Smith and Co., [jlsmithco.com](http://jlsmithco.com)
- *The Complete Guide to the Flute and Piccolo*, by James Phelan. Available at Flute World, [fluteworld.com](http://fluteworld.com)



## Notes

### **Popsicle sticks:**

The purpose of the popsicle sticks is solely as a “holder” for pre-cut pieces of the tape, as well as post-it note pieces. The idea is that instead of carrying around a number of rolls of tape etc, you can wrap the tape around the popsicle stick and adhere the post-its pieces to the stick to make the kit smaller and easier to use in an emergency (so you aren't trying to cut tiny pieces of things in the moment).

I typically have on my popsicle stick about 6” of tape, as well as a number of pre-cut little 2mm-3mm wide strips.

Likewise, the plumbers tape is just wrapped around a popsicle stick to take up less space (I'd recommend wrapping that one in saran/cling wrap to keep it clean).

### **Tapes and Post-its:**

These can be used in an emergency to take the place of key corks or regulation materials that have fallen off. Pre-cutting them into small strips makes it a bit easier to handle when you actually need them. I tend to cut the tape into 4mm x 8mm pieces, and have them in 1 two and 3 layer “precuts” stuck to the popsicle stick. Likewise with the Post-it's I tend to cut them into 4mm-5mm x 8mm-10mm strips that are from the sticky part of the note.

For players with open hole flutes - if you cut your finger and don't have plugs, a easy and temporary fix is to cut out a “circle” (it doesn't have to be exact) that is slightly smaller than the size of the key (so it doesn't hang over the edges and get caught on things) you need to cover, and put that over the key to cover the hole.

### **Dental Floss:**

This is mostly included in case you're in a situation where you loose a piccolo tenon cork, or have a piece of your flute come loose somehow, and need to secure it. It can also be used as a loop to re-hook springs that have become unhooked from their catch. Never use rubber bands, they will tarnish the flute badly and quickly! If needed 100% covered hair ties with no metal

parts are ok.

### **Alcohol wipes:**

Alcohol wipes can help with tight tenons by cleaning the joints. Allow the alcohol to evaporate completely before reassembling the flute, and if you have a microfiber cleaning cloth it is often helpful to wipe the tenons off with this as well. These wipes are also used to clean the lip plate of the flute - especially if you ever need to have someone else play your instrument.

### **Cigarette Papers / Rolling Papers, Yamaha Cleaning Papers etc:**

These are used to blot (not drag) sticky pads, or water-logged pads (mainly an issue on piccolo). If using cigarette papers make sure not to get the "gummed" section near the pad. For schools/practice spaces etc with 100% no drug policies, consider using the Yamaha Cleaning Papers, or getting "curling papers" (used for hair rollers) from a hair/beauty supplier instead. Be sure to AVOID anything calling itself "powder paper"! The powder will eventually gunk up with exposure to moisture, causing the pad to stick and also possible ruining the pad skin.

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