College oboe materials details

**MUSIC**

**Barret Oboe Method:**

There's an old public domain version on imslp you can print, but it's harder to read.  The newer spiral bound Martin Schuring edition is great, though, really, any edition will do as long as it comes with the Scales for Articulation (the earlier Schuring edition left those out).

It may also be a good idea (or become necessary if you’ve progressed through much of Barret) to get the Ferling 48 Studies. There’s a free version on imslp, but the Andraud edition is the most common for region auditions and such, and is quite affordable.

I recommend, but do not require, that you purchase editions of your performed solos, so that you have the original and the piano part for your growing personal library going forward.

I occasionally use exercises from the Edlefsen series. You do not have to purchase these, but you may find them useful for your own teaching later.

The Vade Mecum has some very nice scale and arpeggio studies in the first few pages, and it does include the lovely Bozza oboe/English horn duet, but it seems almost a shame to purchase such an expensive book when so much of it (the orchestral excerpts) has been made outdated by imslp. Consider it, but don’t make it a priority.

Other good etude books, but that we almost certainly won’t use: Hite, Salviani, Singer, Gillet

**OBOE**

You will need an oboe in good repair.

Price: likely between $2,150 and $9,000, depending on brand, level, used vs. new, etc.

It's possible to rent (a scholarship to reimburse rental fees may be made available through the college on a case-by-case basis), but it usually makes more sense to buy if you're majoring.  If you're in the market for an oboe, please keep in touch with me on sources, brands and models, available used oboes, individual oboe trials, etc.  There are a lot of good options (Loree, Howarth, Covey, Fox, Yamaha, Fossati, KGe, etc.), but some really terrible ones that you should avoid, too (Selmer, those Chinese oboes on ebay, etc.)  You'll want a conservatory fingering system with a left F key.

I can also answer questions about repair and maintenance, once you have an oboe.  You are unlikely to run into trouble in the first year of a used oboe from a good shop or a new oboe (barring cracks in new wooden oboes, but warranties usually help there, though the instrument may need to be gone a while for the repair), but repair and maintenance issues can pop up, especially in later years, which will need fixing.

**REEDS**

You need at least three functional reeds at all times.  To start, you can purchase them (Bocal Majority's intermediate reeds are usually good, and they'll let you try them out in their Richardson store and choose your favorites.  Oxford Reeds or Wildflower Reeds are also good.)  Reeds from general music stores that are not made well and cannot be convinced to play in tune do not count.  Expect to need to buy new reeds fairly often; this is usually the greatest upfront expense for an oboist, aside from the instrument itself.

Eventually, the long term goal is to make your own reeds (I can help during lessons with finishing reeds you've made.)

Price: about $20-$25 per reed when you're buying them

**ACCESSORIES:**

**REED CASE**

Ribbon style preferred.  You need a reed case to keep the reeds safe and to let them dry out between uses.  The plastic containers they come in do not count.  There are many good options.  You'll want it to hold at least 6 reeds.  If you start making a lot of reeds, you may find you need a second one.

Price: $11 - $60

TOP PRIORITY. THIS IS ESSENTIAL.

**SWAB**

Price: about $10

You must have a swab and use it after every time you play.  If it's a pull-through swab, you will want one that has a tail to help prevent its getting stuck.

TOP PRIORITY. THIS IS ESSENTIAL.

**REED SOAKER**

Something to soak the reed in before playing

Price: $0 - $7

You can use an empty film container, a rinsed-out medicine bottle, a shot glass, etc., or you can buy one.

TOP PRIORITY. THIS IS ESSENTIAL.

**TUNER**

Price: $0 - $25

You can purchase a tuner or use a phone tuner app, but you will need regular access to a tuner.

HIGH PRIORITY.

**METRONOME**

Price: $0 - $25

You can purchase a metronome (or a metronome/tuner combo) or use a phone metronome app, but you will need regular access to a metronome.

HIGH PRIORITY.

**CORK GREASE**

HIGH PRIORITY (Also, it’s super cheap.)

**CIGARETTE PAPER**

Ungummed cigarette paper is better than most of what is sold as pad paper for what you will want it for, which is helping get water out of keys and checking oboe adjustments. The pad papers that are meant to reduce sticking and may have a fine powder on them are something else entirely.

**A VERY SMALL FLAT HEAD SCREWDRIVER**

For oboe adjusting. Many oboes come with one, but eyeglass adjusting/repair kits also often come with one of the right size for oboe.

**OBOE STAND**

(Entirely optional, but useful for rehearsals and practice.)

**REED MAKING MATERIALS:**

Knife (double hollow ground), Plaques (metal convex preferred, though it may be good to get a flat metal plaque as well), Knife sharpener, Mandrel, FF Thread, Beeswax, Millimeter ruler, Cutting block, Razor blades, Cane, Staples, Plumber's tape, Emory board

* **Optional**
* **Price:** $125 - $250

Needed to begin learning reedmaking.  I can help with sources and details; just ask when you're ready.

Knife sharpener: Lansky ceramic sticks are easily the cheapest that I like, though adding a burnishing rod can be a good idea -- I personally use Shapton ceramic stones and a burnishing rod with the Jende system (and a lapping plate system to keep the stones flat), but that gets pricey, and Lansky sticks work fine.  It's best to either get these from a double reed source or check the details of your source against those carefully, as we use finer grits overall than seem to be standard in most areas.

Millimeter ruler: Metal preferred.  I've seen a nice one with millimeters on both sides online for a good price.

Razor blades: These are cheapest to buy by the box of 100 from non-double-reed stores. GEM razor blades are particularly good.

Cane: Gouged, shaped, and folded (unless you have a shaper tip and handle, in which case you can get just gouged.  If you have a splitter, guillatine, pregouger, and gouger, you can get tube cane).  Any reliable source should let you pick the shape -- my preferred shape is Caleb -1, though we can work with Gilbert -1 if Caleb -1 is not available.

Staples: 47 mm, nickel silver.  I suggest the Chiarugi 2+ or 2.  Staples are reusable.  We can make do with staples salvaged from old reeds for a while if needed, though the consistency of having a consistent known staple is preferable.

**WHERE TO GET THINGS**

**Sheet music:**

**Trevco music** is often the best place to look for double reed music. They are a double reed specific publisher and seller of sheet music, and their online catalogue has an excellent search-by-instrumentation option.

**Pender’s music** is based in Denton, and while it’s a general source, it’s a great place to look for sheet music.

**JW Pepper** is large and generalist, but they do have lots of music.

**Reeds:**

**Bocal Majority** has many excellent reeds in both the “intermediate” and “pro” labels (each letter is a different maker). They are in Richardson and will actually let you try reeds in the store.

**Oxford Reeds,** based in Georgia

**Wildflower Reeds**

**Accessories and Reed-making supplies:**

**Bocal Majority** is local

**Forrests Music** is large and has a good selection of gouged cane and staples, though sometimes their prices are on the higher end.

**Charles Double Reed Company**

**Hodge Products Inc.**

**Midwest Musical Imports**

**RDG**

**Oboe Chicago**

**LC Double Reeds**

**Knives:**

**Jende**

**Landwell**

**LC’s Chang knife**

**Shapton ceramic stones** (they have their own site) and lapping system for sharpening.

**Oboes:**

**Hannah’s Oboes** (HUGE selection of both new and used oboes. Great source for used.)

**Oboe Chicago**

**Bocal Majority** (Local, and a dealer for those KGe oboes)

**RDG**

**Midwest Musical Imports**

**Carlos Coelho** (The U.S. Loree dealer and repairer who often has many of the best Lorees picked out from France)

**Fox**

**Covey**

**Howarth Oboes**

**Gougers:**

**Ross** (Dan Ross’s shop still sells these, adjusts them, and sharpens gouger blades. They can add a handle, too.)

**Innoledy** (gouge dry)

**Reeds n’ Stuff**