

Instrument Malfunctions

- These are handmade instruments and while attention to detail is paid each individual instrument, some things are either beyond our control or can/will happen with rough or careless use.
- These are of wood. Very dense exotic wood in most cases, well seasoned for the purpose, but wood nonetheless. Sometimes a crack will just happen despite the best of preventative measures. In most cases a crack or hairline fracture can be sealed and never give you trouble again. Putting a lot of saliva through the bore, playing outside in all kinds of weather, dropping the instrument, leaving it in extreme of temperatures... Any or a combination thereof can take advantage of any undetected weakness in the material. Please read the care page and do not hesitate to contact us for advise and repairs.
- Rings/ferrules/cork in the socket/layers of wood (when applicable) are kept on by use of glue. In days of yore, these things were jammed on or wedged with paper or cloth, or a dimple would be jabbed through the metal into the wood. Wood breathes and sometimes shrinks... rings, ferrules, etc would fall off and be lost and pretty much everyone in this industry recognizes that the best method for keeping those bits where they belong is by use of glue. This method *almost* never fails, but it has been known to happen. Please do contact us for advice on how to reattach anything that may have come off despite your tender care!
- If you should leave a 2-piece (or more) instrument together for a time longer than you've needed it to be, drying saliva (or rather the gunk left behind from your saliva) can act as something of a glue itself. In other words, your whistle or such has stuck together. The best method to break the seal is as follows... take the instrument in two hands, held close to the joint and gently rock the pieces side to side; think of standing and then gently swinging your hips side to side. Turn the instrument 90 degrees (the logo to one side or t'other) still holding it up and repeat. Then gently twist the pieces apart. Follow up by oiling the pieces and applying cork grease the next time you wish to assemble the instrument.
- The cork/plug in the fife is not meant to be moved for "tuning"... Given the length of the sounding bore and placement of the tone holes, it is where it was intended... One "tunes" by rolling the instrument in or out at your lips. Should the cork be relocated, it may tear and certainly will through the instrument out of tuning with itself even though the tonic may seem to have been tuned to taste. That said, if you *must* do this, please find a dowel just barely thinner than the bore with which to do it. Anything too thin will pierce the cork and render it worthless.