

# 11 Earning the Bottom Joint

## Why Stay on the Upper Joint

1. Beginning band priority #1 is tone.
2. You only need half the clarinet to learn to play with a good sound, embouchure, breath support and left hand position.
3. You only need half of the clarinet to learn lots of early songs.
4. Less awkwardness of holding the instrument
5. No bad right hand position, bad thumb or hooking pinkies under
6. More secure anchoring
7. They can focus on left hand position and embouchure and when they move to the whole instrument it's less change and more secure.
8. They can *earn* their instrument - it's a 'pride thing'.

## GFEDC (Waterfall)

Play GFEDC in in 4 quarter notes / 1 half note

Slur (they should not be tonguing anything yet)

Try to have before or after school time available

## To Earn It They Must Play With:

1. Perfect posture
2. Head up
3. Right hand on barrel - anchoring really well
4. Perfect hand position (fingers very close and pinky touching key)
5. Foot tap
6. Metronome (60-70)
7. TONS of air. Lots and lots of air. As much as they can without blowing out their embouchure or squeaking.

## Make It a Big Deal!

Keep track

Recognize accomplishment

Tell them not to put it on until you teach the whole class how to do it