MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST

Piccolo Care, Hygiene & Seasonal Maintenance Checklist

Official Studio Guide | Bore Hygiene, Tenon Care & Wood Protection Protocol **PiccoloInstrument.com | Verified Educational Resource**

ESSENTIAL CARE OBJECTIVE:

The piccolo is a precision acoustic instrument with an 11mm bore. Moisture accumulation and rapid temperature changes are the #1 cause of cracked grenadilla wood bodies, sticky pads, and binding rods. Follow this daily protocol.

☐ **[Daily (Every Session)]** **Swab the bore immediately after every 15-20 minutes of playing** — All

Condensation collects rapidly in the miniature 11mm bore. Use a lint-free silk pull-through swab. Never leave a damp swab stored inside the piccolo case.

☐ **[Daily (Every Session)]** **Inspect and wipe the tenon cork before assembly** — All

Never force or twist a dry tenon into the socket. Apply a micro-layer of natural cork grease if resistance is felt, wiping excess off with a microfiber cloth.

âš WARNING: Forcing a dry cork causes tenon stress fractures on wooden bodies.

☐ **[Weekly]** **Check cork headjoint stopper depth with swab rod notch** — All

Insert the indicator notch of your piccolo rod into the headjoint. The line must align dead-center with the embouchure hole (17mm depth). If displaced, pitch ac

☐ **[Weekly]** **Dry sticky pads using unpowdered cigarette paper / PadLife** — All

Place the paper under the pad, close the key lightly, and pull paper gently out. Never use powdered paper or dollar bills which leave abrasive grit on toneholes

☐ **[Daily (Every Session)]** **Store with 49% or 58% Boveda two-way humidity packs inside case cover** — Grenadilla Wood

Wood expands and contracts rapidly with relative humidity drops. Storing your instrument at 45-55% RH inside a zippered thermal case cover is the #1 defens

âš WARNING: Never play a cold wooden piccolo straight out of the case. Warm the exterior gently with your hands first!

☐ **[Monthly / Seasonal]** **Inspect pivot screws and rod mechanisms for play or loose screws** — All

Gently check key action. If a rod screw starts backing out, consult an authorized repair technician or apply a drop of key oil using a needle applicator.

☐ **[Monthly / Seasonal]** **Almond / Sweet Wood Bore Oiling Protocol (Seasonally)** — Grenadilla Wood

During dry winter months, apply 2 drops of organic sweet almond oil or specialized woodwind bore oil to a dedicated swab cloth and pass lightly through the b

SEASONAL GRENADILLA WOOD HUMIDITY MATRIX (WINTER VS SUMMER):

â€¢ Winter Heating Months (< 35% RH): Keep two 49% Boveda packs inside the zippered case. Never place piccolo near radiators or vents.

â€¢ Acclimatization: When bringing an instrument in from cold outdoor air, let the closed case sit at room temp for 45 minutes before opening.

â€¢ Bore Oiling: Apply 2 drops of sweet almond oil to bare wood 2-3 times per year. Never allow oil to touch synthetic or cork pads!

â€¢ Emergency First Aid: If you hear a faint clicking or notice tenon binding, stop playing immediately and check for crack lines.