

Trevor Head: Training in Musical Instrument Repair Courses: 2022

Brass and woodwind repair courses planned for 2022

All courses are suitable for those wishing to embark on a career in musical instrument repair.

Our courses are 'hands on' and are highly recommended by NAMIR (National Association of Musical Instrument Repairers) and the trade in general. Enthusiastic amateurs, Instrumental music teachers and Musical instrument Retailers may also find the courses useful and rewarding.

There are no formal entry requirements to our foundation courses. However, you must have good hand/eye co-ordination and be a practical 'hands on' person.

Some courses in the program may have pre-requisites! Please see the following course descriptions.

Full details and prices on pages 9 & 10.

Although not essential, some ability in playing an instrument in your chosen area will prove invaluable in 'trouble shooting' and checking an instrument before and after repair.

Instrument repair technicians require a great deal of patience, and a lot of skill, and the willingness to try and try again until perfection is achieved. Make these qualities your goal, and you will be well on your way to a successful career in musical instrument repair.

Woodwind Instrument Repair courses

Woodwind Repair Foundation courses

No previous experience is required for these courses! The three tutors delivering the courses all have different teaching styles and as such will deliver a different learning experience. All, have vast repairing and teaching experience.

Please enquire, if you would like more information and help in selecting which tutor would be better matched to your own learning style.

The teaching environment is relaxed, and you will work at a comfortable pace to suit your own abilities and experience.

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Foundation courses Continued...

General woodwind repair skills will be taught on the clarinet, flute and saxophone.

These will include dismantling procedures, cleaning techniques, pad replacement, pad seating, regulation and tenon re-corking. Some soldering and dent removal will also be included.

Techniques will be demonstrated, and then practised by the students.

In between formal group teaching sessions you will be able to work on any woodwind instrument(s) of your choice in the above-mentioned group.

You will receive a great deal of one-to-one tuition as each student is visited in turn, being guided and advised on the repairs in progress. The group will be frequently drawn together whenever an interesting repair problem occurs!

Double reed instruments (Oboe and Bassoon) may also be touched upon, depending on the general interest within the group, but due to the complexity of these instruments, we advise attending our 4-day specialist double Reed course or workshop once you have completed a foundation course.

The general aims of the foundation course are that you will be able to carry out a full service to the clarinet, flute and saxophone by the end of the week.

You will then make the final adjustments necessary to ensure that the end result is a fine, in tune and beautifully playing instrument.

Saxophone Repair for Complete Beginners

A four-day course starting completely from scratch, devoted entirely to Saxophone Repair.

On completion of this course, you may attend all or any of the following courses:

- Saxophones Galore
- Saxophone and Clarinet (Advanced specialist)
- Any Woodwind Foundation course
- Woodwind Repair Programme: Part One

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Flute Repair for complete Beginners

A four-day course starting completely from scratch, devoted entirely to Flute Repair.

On completion of this course, you may attend all or any of the following courses:

- Flute and Piccolo (Advanced Specialist)
- Any Woodwind foundation course
- Woodwind Repair Programme: Part One

Woodwind Instrument Repair Programme with Kate Reynolds

(2 parts/6 days each part)

The Part One Course is a structured and progressive woodwind repair training programme for those students preferring a formal teaching style, and who want to commit to more intensive and lengthy training. With all new techniques and procedures being introduced by demonstrations, followed by student practice.

The Part Two Course is the natural progression to a higher level for those students who have attended a 6-day part one foundation course with Kate.

We strongly advise a minimum of three months of serious practise in between attending a Part one and a Part two course.

Advanced Specialist courses

Available in the following instrumental areas, you must have first attended a Foundation course:

- Saxophone and clarinet – Richard Hamer
- Flute and piccolo – Lynne Williams
- Double reeds (Oboe and Bassoon) – Iona Walker
- Trombone slides – Trevor Head
- French Horns – Trevor Head

These courses can be repeated by students wishing to develop their skills to a higher level.

Be prepared for professional criticism on the above courses! Our aim is to help you develop your personal skills to a higher level.

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'Saxophones Galore' – Gary Mills and Richard Hamer

Repairing only saxophones, you will already have a good working knowledge of general woodwind repair techniques, gained from previously attending a woodwind repair foundation course here at the school, or perhaps having gained suitable repairing experience elsewhere.

Working alongside two of the country's leading saxophone repair specialists, you will further your knowledge and skills in this area of repair work. Dent removal, soldering, body straightening, tone hole levelling, repadding and much more.

This course can be repeated by students wishing to develop their skills to a higher level.

Brass Instrument Repair courses

Foundation Brass Instrument Repair Courses with Trevor Head

No previous experience is required for this course!

This is the longest running of our foundation courses. Since 1973 Trevor has been training students, many of whom have subsequently held prominent positions in repair companies or have run their own successful repair and/or instrument making businesses.

Techniques and procedures are taught through demonstration, followed by student practice. Actual repairs will be undertaken throughout the course.

Some tool making projects will also be undertaken during the course, and there will be an opportunity to purchase a limited selection of repairer's tools and materials.

The full itinerary for this course is available on request!

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Trombone slide repair and re-alignment – Trevor Head

Concentrating on the repair and re-alignment of trombone slides, eligible students must have first attended a brass instrument foundation course, or gained suitable repairing experience elsewhere!

Dent removal techniques, checking for straightness using a ‘back lit’ engineers’ straight edge and complete re-building will be at the core of this course.

There is a choice of a two, or three-day option for the trombone slide repair enthusiast. The repair component is the same for both courses, but on the three-day course some specialist tool-making projects will be undertaken selected from the following:

- Slide levelling and rebuilding jig
- Trombone slide mandrels
- Tube ‘rounding’ burnisher

This course can be repeated by students wishing to develop their skills to a higher level.

Specialist French horn Repair

This course will include full valve servicing (String and linkage) and dent removal from ALL parts of the instrument using ball irons where appropriate, and dent balls.

Obviously, skills learnt on this course (as with all other courses) are transferable to all other instruments in the Brass Instrument family.

The traditional use of the dent ball in conjunction with a driver will be demonstrated and available for students to practise.

Thorough chemical cleaning techniques will be discussed and demonstrated. Soldering without the need for dismantling will also be covered.

Some toolmaking may be undertaken if time permits; this could include a french horn adjustable support jig.

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Lifelong learning and support

Ongoing learning enhances a sense of personal satisfaction and pride in your work and achievements, as well as furthering your career opportunities.

We would hope to develop a professional relationship with you, and to continue to engage with your individual requirements, and help you to develop your sense of personal achievement and increasing expertise to a highly professional level.

We are proud of our record in providing the invaluable help and support needed, once you have completed your course of training.

National Association of Musical Instrument Repairers - (NAMIR)

Many past students are now professional members of NAMIR and are running their own successful repair businesses.

NAMIR student membership is an option for all students completing a foundation course. Professional membership is also available to suitably qualified candidates.

Certificates of attendance:

The school awards its own certificates of attendance, which will be awarded on the final day of your course.

Tools and materials

Your tutor may suggest a 'starter' tool kit for those students wishing to own their own tools. This is not compulsory, as all tools needed for your course are provided.

Because of the extremely high cost of repairer's materials, some items used for general practice and repairs to your own instruments will be charged for at cost price.

This will include such items as pads, springs, cork and any spare parts required for a specific repair. These will be provided by your tutor, and you will pay her/him directly for items used.

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Instruments to work on during the course

Please arrange to bring your own instruments with you to work on during the course. We are sometimes able to provide instruments for those travelling with limited luggage capacity. Please discuss this with your course tutor once you have completed your enrolment.

As a general guide, you will need two or three instruments to work on when attending a course. We strongly advise bringing the very best quality instruments that you can find. Your tutor will advise you once you have enrolled.

Important information on which instruments to bring with you:

Avoid bringing poor quality instruments to work on. A well-engineered instrument, manufactured from good quality materials will assist, not hinder the learning process. Vintage instruments too, should be avoided if at all possible, as these generally present repair problems which are often beyond the scope of trainee instrument repairers.

Accommodation during your course

Accommodation during the course is not included in the course fee.

Some self-catering and bed and breakfast accommodation is available close to the school. There will be a greater choice available to students who have their own transport. Further information will be sent to you once you have enrolled on a course, or if requested.

Lunches and refreshments

Packed lunches are advisable, as there are no restaurants or cafes in the village. A large refrigerator and two microwave ovens are available for students to use.

Tea, coffee, soft drinks and biscuits are provided free of charge, and are available all day long for students to help themselves.

Group sizes

The size of each course group is usually between four and seven students, but generally averages at five throughout the year.

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How to apply and pay for your course

First of all, check that there is a place available on your preferred course. Do this by contacting Trevor by telephone, text message or Email:

Telephone: 07971 083089

Email: trevorhead@btinternet.com

Send your completed enrolment form and course payment by post or as an email attachment. Bank payment details and an enrolment form will be sent to you once we know that you are going to attend a course.

Please state clearly, how you intend to make your payment.

Successful enrolment on to a course

You will be considered to have secured your place on a course, **only** when we have received your **fully completed enrolment form**, together with the **full course payment**. Completed enrolment forms can be overwritten and returned as an email attachment, or by post.

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Brass Instrument Repair courses – 2022

Brass repair (foundation) (5 days)	April 10 th to 14 th	£1118.00
Just Trombone Slides - slide repair and re-alignment (2 days) No tool-making on this course!	June 4th to 5th	£596.00
Specialist French Horn Repair including full valve servicing (String and linkage) and dent removal from ALL parts! (3 days)	July 11th to 13th	£784.00
Trombone slides. Repairs, re-alignment and associated specialist tool-making (3 days)	Aug 31 st to Sept 2nd	£784.00
One-to-one training available on any brass repair or associated engineering topic by arrangement!	Dates – By arrangement	Enquire for pricing details
Brass repair (foundation) (5 days)	Sept 26 th to 30 th	£1118.00
One-to-one training available on any brass repair or associated engineering topic by arrangement!	Dates – By arrangement	Enquire for pricing details

All of the above courses are taught by Trevor Head.

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Woodwind Instrument Repair Courses – 2022

Woodwind repair Foundation Course - 6 days (KM)	March 21 st to 26 th	£1318.00
Flute Repair for complete beginners – 4 days (LW)	March 28 th to 31 st	£917.00
Woodwind repair Foundation Course - 6 days (RH)	April 19 th to 24 th	£1318.00
Flute and Piccolo (Advanced specialist) - 4 days (LW)	May 7 th to 10 th	£917.00
Double Reed Repair Workshop – Sort problems, learn new skills working on the oboe and bassoon – 3 days (IW)	May 19 th to 21 st	£784.00
Saxophone Repair for complete beginners – 4 days (RH)	May 23 rd to 26 th	£917.00
Saxophones Galore! Four days of advanced and general repairs with Richard Hamer and Gary Mills. Not to be missed! Just like being in a commercial workshop! (Some repairing experience required)	June 27 th to 30 th	£1118.00
Saxophone and clarinet (Advanced Specialist) - 4 days (RH)	July 18 th to 21 st	£917.00
Woodwind repair Foundation Course - 6 days (LW)	Aug 1 st to 6 th	£1318.00
Double Reed (Advanced Specialist) - 4 days (IW)	Aug 8 th to 11 th	£917.00
Woodwind Repair Program: Part Two - 6 days (KR)	Aug 22 nd to 27 th	£1318.00
Woodwind Repair Program: Part One – 6 days (KR)	Oct 9 th to 14 th	£1318.00
Woodwind repair Foundation Course - 6 days (KM)	Oct 24 th to 29 th	£1318.00
One-to-one training available on any tool-making or associated engineering topic by arrangement!	Dates – By arrangement	Enquire for pricing details

Tutors: Richard Hamer (RH) Lynne Williams (LW) Caitriona (Iona) Walker (IW)

Keith Magnall (KM)

Guest tutor: Gary Mills (GM)

Kate Reynolds (KR)

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Final Check List and Terms

Please read carefully and be aware of the following:

- Check with Trevor that a place is available on your preferred course.
- Submit a separate enrolment form for each course being applied for.
- The full course fee is due at the time of submitting your Enrolment form, unless otherwise agreed in advance.
- Course fees are not normally refundable or transferrable, unless a course is cancelled or re-scheduled by the school, or if students are prevented from travelling/attending due to any Government imposed restrictions or verifiable illness.
- We reserve the right to cancel or re-schedule a course.
- Course fees do not include the cost of accommodation, and some materials used on a course. (Refer to 'Tools and Materials' on page 6).
- You will be charged, (at cost) for certain materials and accessories used on your course. You will pay your tutor directly for this.
- Any excess bank charges for overseas payments must be paid for on arrival at the school.
- The school, and parking area to the front of the building are No-Smoking areas.
- Please make sure you are able to bring instruments with you to work on during the course.