

Humistat Humidifier and Hygrometer Review

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Quite often as pipers we lag behind the rest of the music world or often think that their ways are not relevant to us. One area where this seems very true is certainly some aspects of instrument care. The use of humidifiers is commonplace with many owners of wood instruments. Combine this with a hygrometer and we have an excellent way to protect our instruments from environmental damage.

It is recommended that a humidifier be used in any circumstance where the instrument is stored below 50% humidity. Less than 30% and a humidifier at full capacity is recommended and under 20% humidity and there is an extreme risk of instrument cracking or warping. In these conditions it is recommended that the humidifier be used at full capacity and be checked daily.

The Humistat humidifier has an absorbent material that holds distilled water and a rotating vent system to increase or decrease the humidity level within your instrument case. It is first filled until it overflows and then left on a flat bench for 60 minutes to season the absorbent material. It is then ready for use and should be checked regularly to ensure it has not dried out. Usually once a week except in extreme conditions.



A hygrometer is available with the humidifier which helps monitor the humidity within your instrument case. This is a small dial type unit that is easy to read and understand. Kept in your case it is easy to monitor and make the relevant adjustments to the humidifier. It can be calibrated using a small screw driver on the rear side.



These units are well made and relatively inexpensive. They are easy to use with simple to follow instructions. They are certainly an effective way to protect your valuable instrument.

We keep a humidifier and hygrometer in the case of every instrument kept in stock at the School of Piping Shop. A constant moisture level will help prevent warping, cracking and shrinkage. Shrinkage in particular affects instrument tone, causes rotating joints and mounts to fall off. Warping of course will affect instrument steadiness and cracking causes leaks and performance issues with both steadiness and reliability.

Humistat products, The Makers Choice range of oils and waxes and a wide range of brushes and swabs can be purchased from the School of Piping Shop. All you need to keep your instrument in pristine condition. http://www.schoolofpiping.com/shop/bagpipes_and_accessories.html

We have further articles on wood care that can be found here:

<http://www.schoolofpipng.com/articles.html>

We highly recommend The Makers Choice range of oils and waxes to further protect your instrument. More information on these products can be seen here:

<https://sites.google.com/site/themakerschoiceproducts/>

Email us direct at: schoolofpipng@gmail.com



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