Studies For Valentino Pad Installation

"Press-Fit Style"

Introduction:
This pad is produced for some instrument factories and is intended for ease and speed of installation. This pad is mainly used in the smaller clarinet keys. We recommend using the float-in style on the bottom four pads. To date, our customers have only used these for clarinet though we can imagine other uses, perhaps bassoon, piccolo, trills and left hand C on flute.

Description:
The Valentino "Press-Fit" has a solid paper back. This does not allow adhesion to the back of the pad cup, and this attribute allows the pad to be adjusted easily. These pads have a ring of adhesive between the paper backing and the "business area" top of the pad. The ring of adhesive then adheres the pad to the interior sides of the pad cup. This sidewall adhesive and the paper backing allow the pad to be positioned easily and quickly.

Installing:
The pads are installed into the cups with the keys mounted on the instrument. With a needle poked into the side of the pad, open the key and position the pad on the tone hole underneath the key. Bring the key down over the pad and press until you receive the desired pad exposure. Test. The pad can be adjusted if needed by gently tipping it with a thin metal pad "slick". If the exposure is even around the circumference as desired, then align the key itself for coverage.

Embossing the impression (a.k.a. the seat):
On keys that are sprung closed, the spring tension alone will train the impression into the pad. On lightly sprung models, you may want to lightly press on the pad cup for a moment to help emboss the pad. On models with heavier spring tension, the spring alone will do it. On open key pads, lightly clamp these keys closed for a while (we offer Valentino Key Clamps for this purpose). Depending on the specific pad type, clamp time may be 60 minutes or less. Alternatively, apply some moderate heat with a blow dryer to warm the pad face. The heat will help put a deeper impression in the pad. If the impression is too deep, heat the pad again without clamping and the impression will come out. When using a heat method, clamp time can be reduced.

There may be no heat required to install the "Press-Fit", but some repair technicians warm the pad cup a touch to loosen the glue when readjusting the pad.

Instructions For Valentino Pad Installation

"Glue-In Style"

Introduction:
This pad is designed to be installed in a traditional manner. We recommend this pad for installation in larger diameter open sprung pads such as the bottom four on clarinet. This is also an excellent choice for bass clarinet, flute, bassoon and piccolo.

Description:
The "Greenback" pad has a paper back that allows for application of hot adhesive while shielding the pad from heat. This paper back is bonded directly to the core material of the pad. There is no adhesive ring.

Installing:
The worker can apply adhesive either to the back of the pad or inside of the key cup and while warm will insert the pad into the cup. This is normally done off the body, but if applying the adhesive in the cup, the key can be installed on the instrument and later the pad inserted.

The pad can be adjusted by heating the key and either adjusting with a pad "slick" or pressing the key repeatedly to the tone hole with a light pressure to coax the pad into place.

Note:
All Valentino pads are sensitive to overheating. The worker can install these with a burner, torch, or resistance heat device. Heating beyond the melting temperature of the adhesive is unnecessary of course, and can degrade the pad. It is important to use an adhesive that has a reasonable melting point, and one that doesn't shrink too much as it cools. Most hot melts shrink as they cool pulling the pad up into the cup. This creates a leak in the pad once cooled. We offer our "Amber Melt" glue, which we've had great success with. This is available either in pellet, stick or disk form.

Embossing the impression (a.k.a. seat):
As with the "Press-In" pad, lightly clamp the keys closed for a while. Do not do this while the key is too hot to touch. Clamp for up to 30 minutes. We sell clamps for this purpose. For a deeper impression, apply some moderate heat with a blow dryer directly to the pad (before clamping) or into the bore after clamping. More heat and longer heat time as well as stronger clamps leads to a deeper impression. We caution against trying to make a very deep impression.