

Band Beginnings Method Book



Clarinet Book

Name _____ School _____

Teacher _____ Room _____

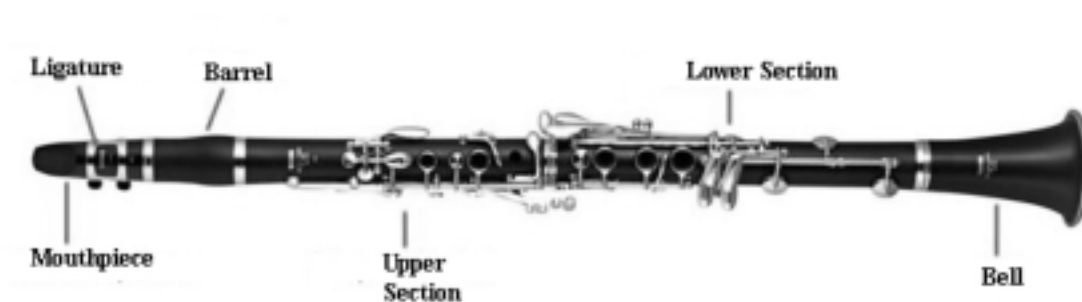
Supply Checklist

- ☐ Instrument (or a note from home if you can't bring it)
- ☐ 1. Luggage Tag on the case (name, address, phone, classroom teacher, school)
- ☐ 2. Music Binder (a three-ring binder)(1-inch hard cover is best)
- ☐ 4. Pencil
- ☐ 5. Music Stand at home (highly recommended)

Instrument Supplies

- ☐ Extra Reeds (size #2)
- ☐ Cork Grease
- ☐ Swab

Parts of the Clarinet



Setting up the Clarinet Mouthpiece



Forming the Clarinet Embouchure



Flatten your bottom lip and make sure the red part of your lip is over the ridge of your bottom teeth. (Pretend you are putting chap-stick on the lip). Avoid having the red part of your lip all on the inside of your teeth (or outside).



Again, make sure the red part of the lower lip covers the ridge of the lower teeth.

Place the clarinet mouthpiece in your mouth (reed down on the lower lip). Set the reed on your lower lip and let it anchor down the flat, red part of the lip and keep the chin flat. Bring the top teeth down onto the top of the mouthpiece

Bite down with the top teeth onto the mouthpiece putting 1/4 inch of the mouthpiece into your mouth. Close your mouth around the mouthpiece like a drawstring bag.



IMPORTANT: Anchor the flattened lower lip to the lower teeth and **KEEP** the flat chin. Bring the upper teeth over the mouthpiece and bite down on the mouthpiece with the upper teeth touching the mouthpiece.

Clarinet Embouchure (cont.)

If you were to make vowel sounds with your mouth, you would start with Eeee and slowly change the mouth to Oooo or Uuuu. Therefore, try this, say EeeeOooo. Notice how round your mouth is. The top lip, corners, and bottom lip should all have equal pressure on the mouthpiece/reed.

As you close your mouth and seal it, pull the chin down and make the skin between your chin and lower lip stretch. (Be careful NOT to open up the pressure of the bite. This is a common mistake and misunderstanding). Now, with your right hand (under the thumbrest) place some pressure against the upper teeth.

BLOW – when breathing, only use the corners of your mouth to take air into your lungs. Keep the same pressure and do not interrupt your flat chin to do this. Many students completely open their mouth to breath and the most efficient way to breath is to use the corners of your mouth.

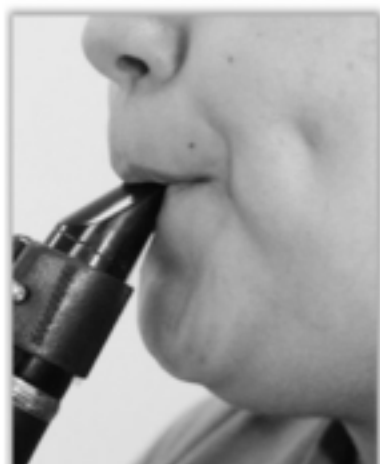


Clarinet Embouchure

Student Reference Guide

DO:

- ♪ Keep your chin flat, pointing toward the ground.
- ♪ Keep the corners of your mouth firm and pulled in, like a drawstring bag.
- ♪ Click the mouthpiece against your top teeth and “anchor” them there.
- ♪ Pull your top lip down and keep it smooth.
- ♪ Think “ee” “oo”
- ♪ Make a milkshake face (pretend to drink a really thick milkshake through a really thin straw).
- ♪ Use fast, cold air.
- ♪ Keep your head up and sit with good posture.
- ♪ Practice with a mirror, checking for a flat chin and muscles.
- ♪ Wet your reed in your mouth for 30 seconds before playing.



DON'T:

- ♪ Don't look down when you play. Keep your head and air up!
- ♪ Don't puff out your cheeks.
- ♪ Don't bite! The bottom teeth should never bite the reed.
- ♪ Don't take your top teeth off the mouthpiece, even when you take a breath.
- ♪ Don't play on the same reed every day.

ASSEMBLING THE CLARINET

Always make sure the case is facing the correct direction before it is opened. If your case doesn't have a logo or label on the top, add a sticker or name tag so you always know which way should be facing up.

Before assembling, if needed, apply cork grease to the tenons of your clarinet.



Remember, a little cork grease goes a long way! Apply a small amount to each piece of cork and then rub it around the cork with your finger to ensure even distribution.

Keep in mind that cork grease is not necessarily needed every day. On average, you'll want to use cork grease every 2-3 days.

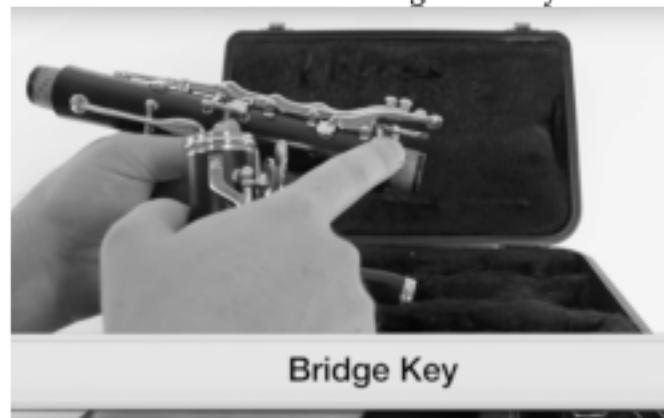
Assemble your clarinet from the bottom to the top, starting with the bell and lower section.



Use a twisting motion to get the pieces together. If the pieces feel very tight, you can add some more cork grease.



Be careful of the bridge key as you twist the lower and upper joints together. Press down the key rings on the upper joint as you add it to the lower joint to ensure the two parts of the bridge key don't knock into each other during assembly.



Be very careful of the keys as you assemble your instrument. Though they're made of metal, they can bend easily. Try to grip from the body of your clarinet and avoid putting too much pressure on keys as you put the pieces together. Always use a gentle twisting motion.



When you're done, check to make sure the two parts of the bridge key are aligned properly.



The last step is to put the mouthpiece and barrel on the top of the upper section.



Check back of the clarinet to see if it is aligned properly.



Holding the Clarinet

Right Hand Position (on bottom)

Step 1. Position your right hand to the bottom of the instrument

Step 2. Center your thumb on the thumb rest between the tip of your thumb and your first knuckle.

Step 3. Curve your fingers

Step 4. Keep your thumb straight

Step 5. Slant your fingers slightly downward

Step 6. Keep your wrist straight



Left Hand Position (on top)

Step 1: Position your left hand on top of the instrument

Step 2: Curve your fingers

Step 3: Keep your thumb straight

Step 4: Keep your wrist straight



Clarinet Posture and Position

Sitting Posture

Feet Flat on the floor

Back Straight

Sit on the Front Edge of your Chair

Bring your clarinet out in front of you and straight to your lips. (Remember, your arms move so your head and neck don't have to!)



Correct: Bring the clarinet to you, don't go to the clarinet.

Incorrect: Ducking the head down affects the clarinet embouchure.



Clarinet Maintenance

Before You Play:

Do not consume sugary candy, gum or sodas. This is the biggest cause of sticky and waterlogged keys.

Always lay your case flat on the floor or on your lap before opening and closing your clarinet case.

Always soak your reed in your mouth while assembling your clarinet.

Proper instrument assembly is essential to good care of your instrument. Be careful not to squeeze the rods along the side of the clarinet when putting it together. The keys are delicate and you don't want to bend them. Always remove your clarinet from the case by holding the ends of each joint, not the keys.

Use cork grease on the joints of the clarinet as needed to insure that assembly is easy. Putting your instrument together should never be a struggle. It is important to use cork grease, especially when the corks are new.



When tightening the screws on the ligature, make sure to not over-tighten them. This can cause the ligature to break.

After You Play:

Take your reed off and store it properly in your reed guard. Labeling your reeds by number and rotating which reed you play on daily is recommended.



Always swab out your instrument after playing. Keeping your clarinet dry is the best thing you can do to take care of it. Listen to your teacher for very specific instructions on how to swab your clarinet.

Silk, cotton and microfiber swabs absorb moisture well. Do not use flannel or felt swabs- they do not absorb moisture but instead, spread it around.

After swabbing, wipe down the outside of the clarinet with a clean, soft cloth.



Storage:

Always leave your clarinet placed properly in its case when it is not being used. Never leave it on the ground, a chair or a music stand. Always keep it in your hands or in its case.

Do not put music and other items in your case unless there is a space or compartment designed for it. Loose items can damage your instrument.

Never store your clarinet in extreme hot or cold temperatures. While running errands, never leave your instrument in the car. Extreme temperatures can damage the wood, plastic, pads and corks on your instrument.



When carrying your instrument, double check that the latches are closed securely. It is a good idea to carry the LID of the case against your leg.

Weekly Maintenance:

Wash your swab in warm water and a mild detergent once a week (or at least once a month depending on use). Let it dry completely.

Using a soft, clean cloth, carefully wipe keys one at a time, being careful not to snag any springs.

Monthly Maintenance:

Check to make sure that there are no loose screws on your clarinet.

Check rods and keys for dust and dirt. Use a natural bristle brush (water color brush or makeup brush) to carefully remove dirt when needed.

Check to make sure that pads are in good condition and that corks and felt bumpers are in place. If they are missing, you will hear a metal on metal sound when you play your instrument. This should never be heard on an instrument that is playing properly. If this happens, take the instrument to your local music store.

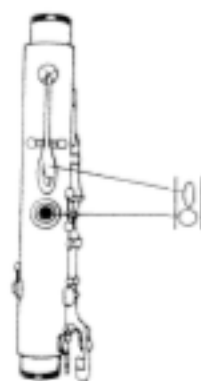
Annual Maintenance:

If you own your clarinet, summer is a great time to take your clarinet to a local music store for an annual check-up. Yes, musical instruments need "check-ups" too! The store will do minor repairs such as replacing worn pads or corks. If you are renting, this maintenance is usually covered in the rental program.

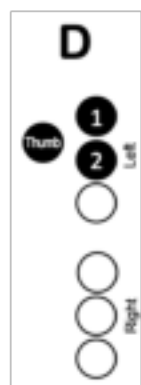
Band Beginnings- Clarinet

Lesson One: Our First Three Notes

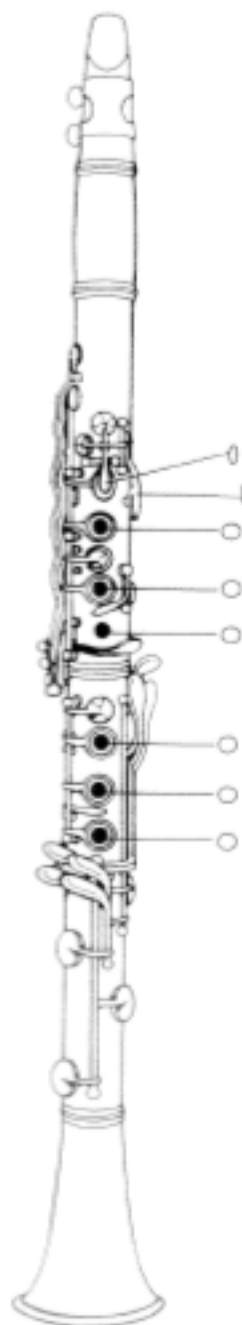
1 Play an *E*:



2 Play a *D*:



3 Play a *C*:



4. Our First Song- Hot Cross Buns

(Hold Notes Through the Dashes)

E - D - C - - -

E - D - C - - -

C C C C D D D D

E - D - C - - -

Time Signatures - $\frac{4}{4}$

Time signatures appear at the beginning of a piece of music. They are made up of two numbers.



The top number indicates the number of beats per measure.
The bottom number indicates which note will get one beat.

In $\frac{4}{4}$ time there are four beats in each measure.

A **quarter note** (♩) = 1 beat

A **half note** (♪) = 2 beats

A **whole note** (♩) = 4 beats

5. A *Whole Note* receives 4 Beats



6. A *Half Note* receives 2 Beats



or



7. A *Quarter Note* receives 1 Beat



or



Level One- Mini Boss Quiz

8. What kind of note gets 1 beat? _____
Answer

Draw four 1 beat notes in the space below:

9. What kind of note receives 2 beats? _____
Answer

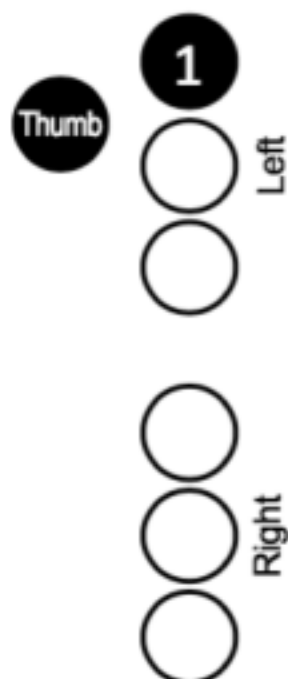
Draw four two beat notes in the space below:

10. What kind of note receives 4 beats? _____
Answer

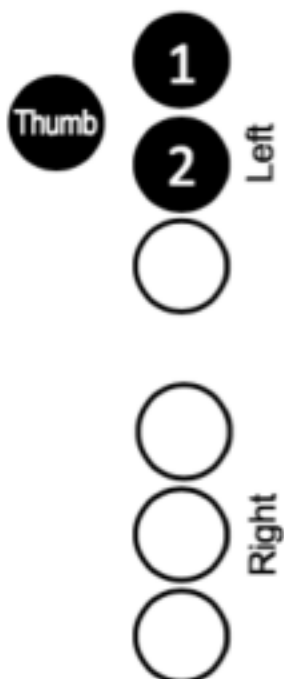
Draw four 4 beat notes in the space below:

Our First Three Notes

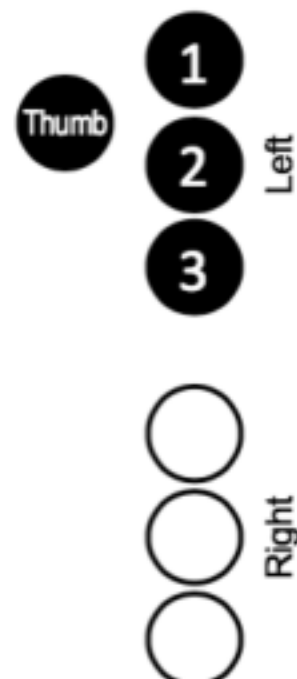
E



D



C

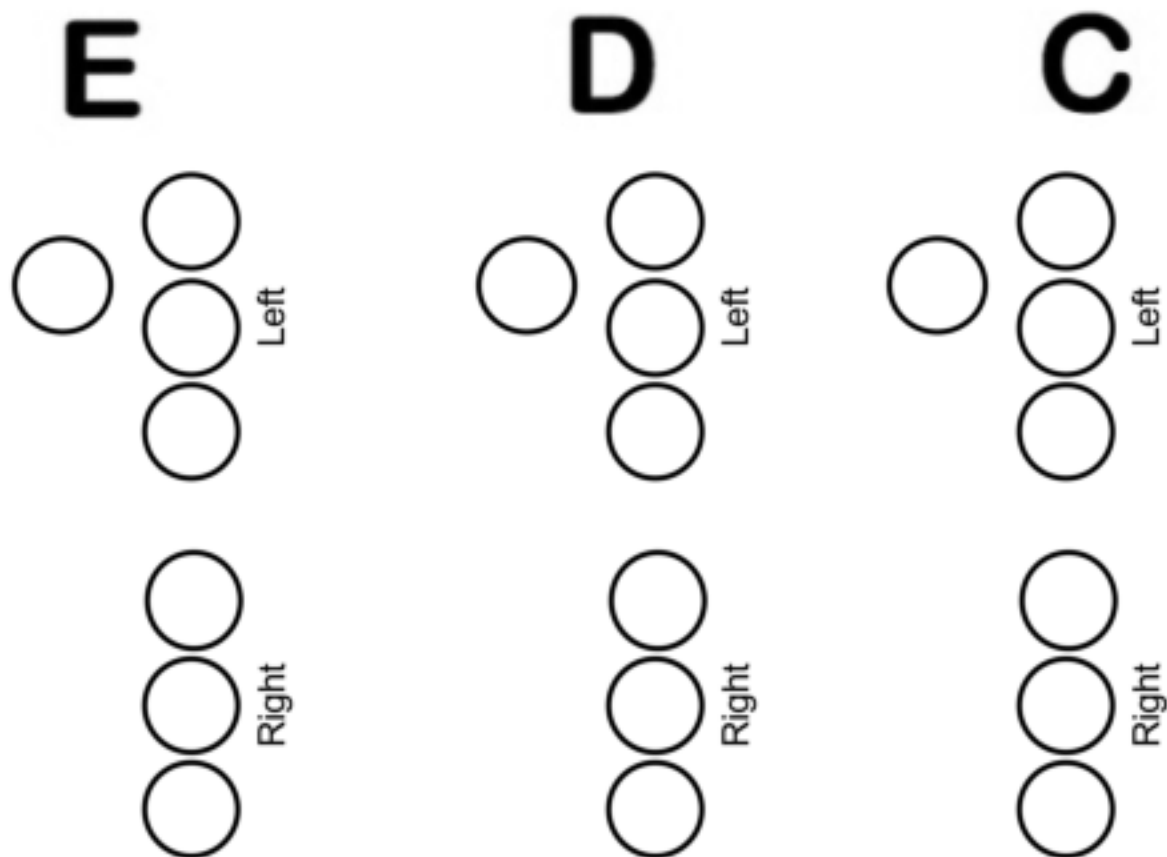


11. Hot Cross Buns



Our First Three Notes

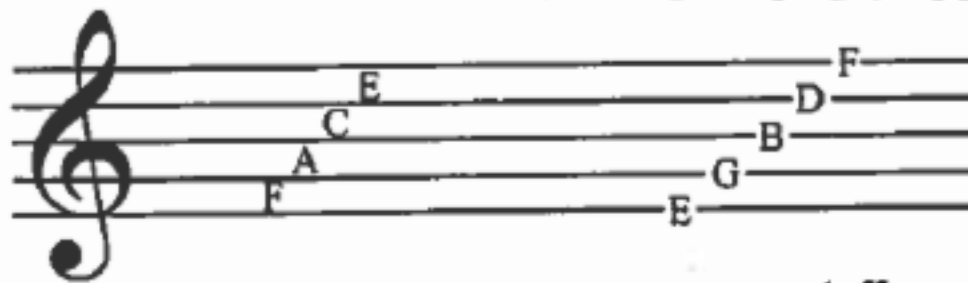
(shade in the correct fingers)



12. Au Claire de la Lune



The Treble Clef Staff



Notes are written on lines and spaces called the **staff**

13. How many lines do you count in the staff? _____

14. What are their letter names? _____

15. How many spaces do you count in the staff? _____

16. What are their letter names? _____

Our First Three Clarinet Notes

17. The **Note E** is written on the 1st line. All of these notes are E.



18. The **Note D** is written below the first line. All of these notes are D



19. The **Note C** is written on a ledger line below the staff. All of these notes are C.



Write E, D, C

20. On the staff below, draw **12 quarter notes on the note E**. Put 4 in each measure.



21. On the staff below, draw **8 half notes on the note D**. Put 2 in each measure.



22. On the staff below, draw **4 whole notes on the note C**. Put 1 in each measure.



23. Three Types of Rests



A **whole rest** gets
gets 4 beats of silence

A **half rest** gets
2 beats of silence

A **quarter rest** gets
1 beat of silence

24. Three Note Review



25. Hot Cross Buns



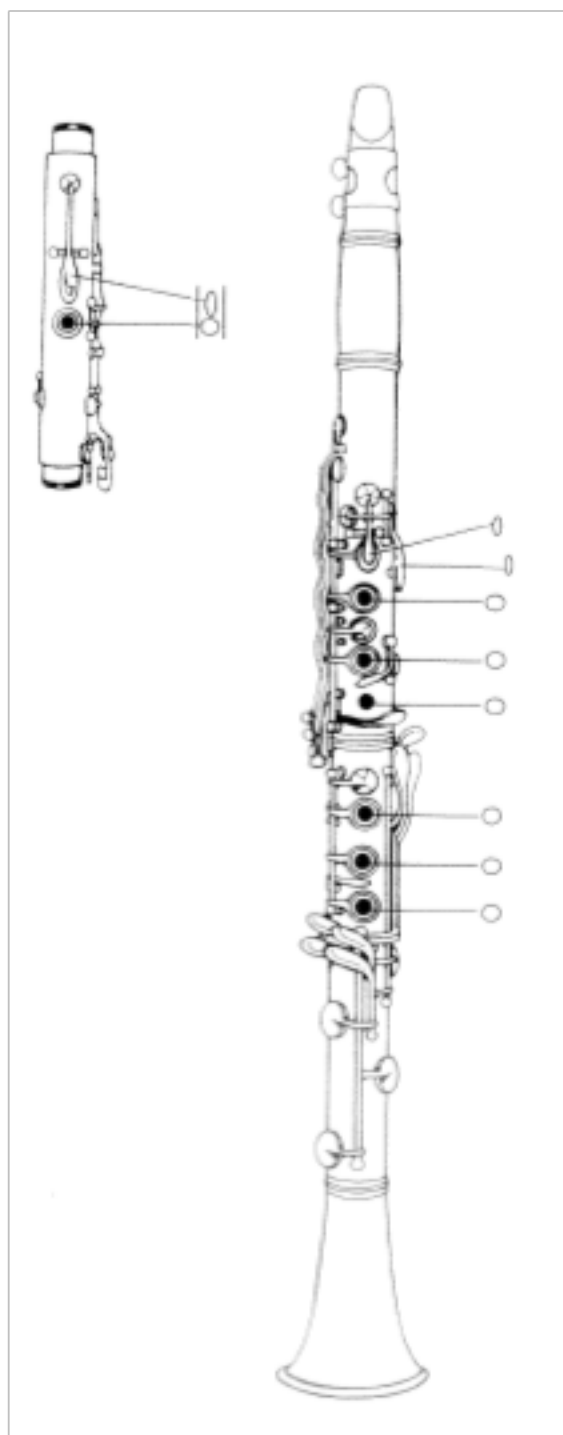
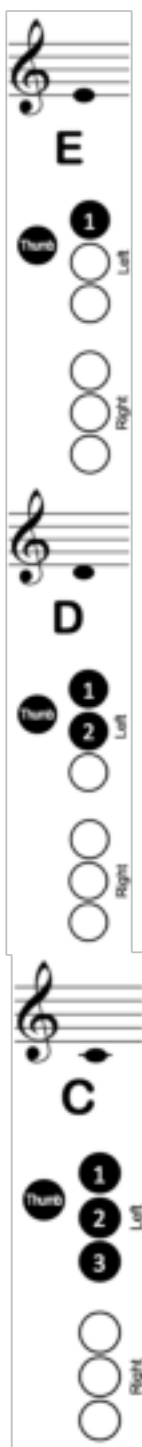
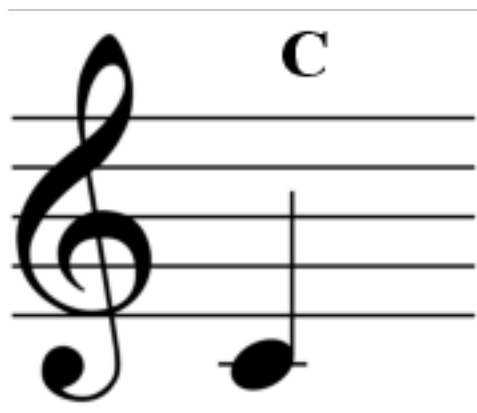
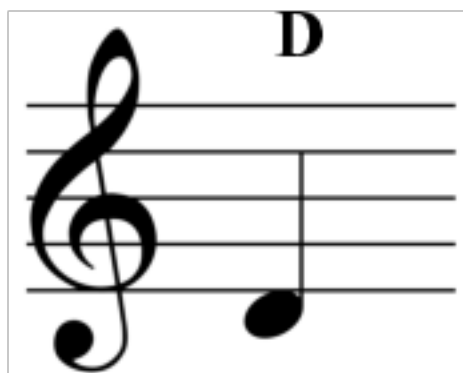
26. One Note Boogie



27. Au Claire de la Lune



Reference Page



28. New Note- F



The note F is written on the first space of the staff

29. New Note- G



The note G is written on the second line of the staff

30. Five Note Scale



31. Tone Builder #1

Chord

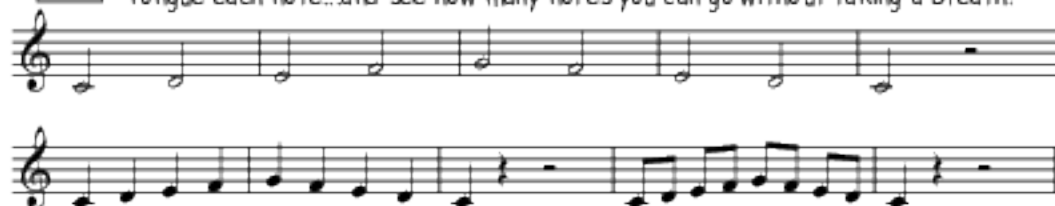
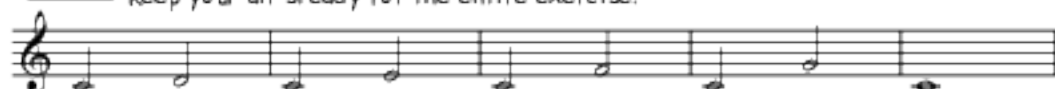
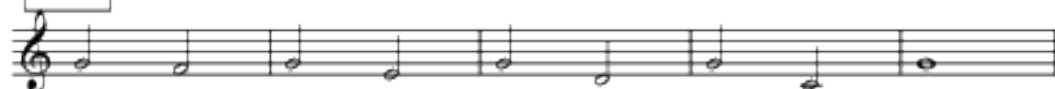
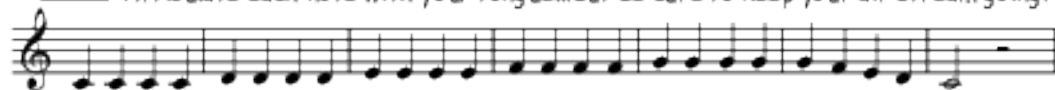
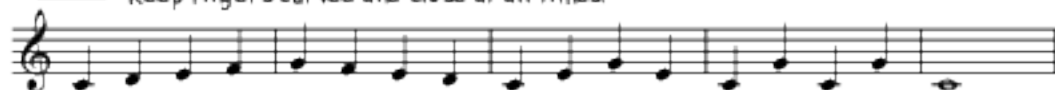
Pick any Note



32. Tone Builder #2



Band Warm-Up

#1 The FIVE NOTE SCALE**#2** Tongue each note...and see how many notes you can go without taking a breath!**#3a** Keep your air steady for the entire exercise!**#3b****#4** Articulate each note with your tongue...but be sure to keep your air stream going!**#5** Keep fingers curved and close at all times!

33. Low - Rest- High-Rest



34. Aunt Rhodie



35. Theme from “Jaws”



36. Rain, Rain Go Away



37. Take Five



38. Three Note Samba



39. El Toro



40. Celebration



41. Our First Five Notes Warmup



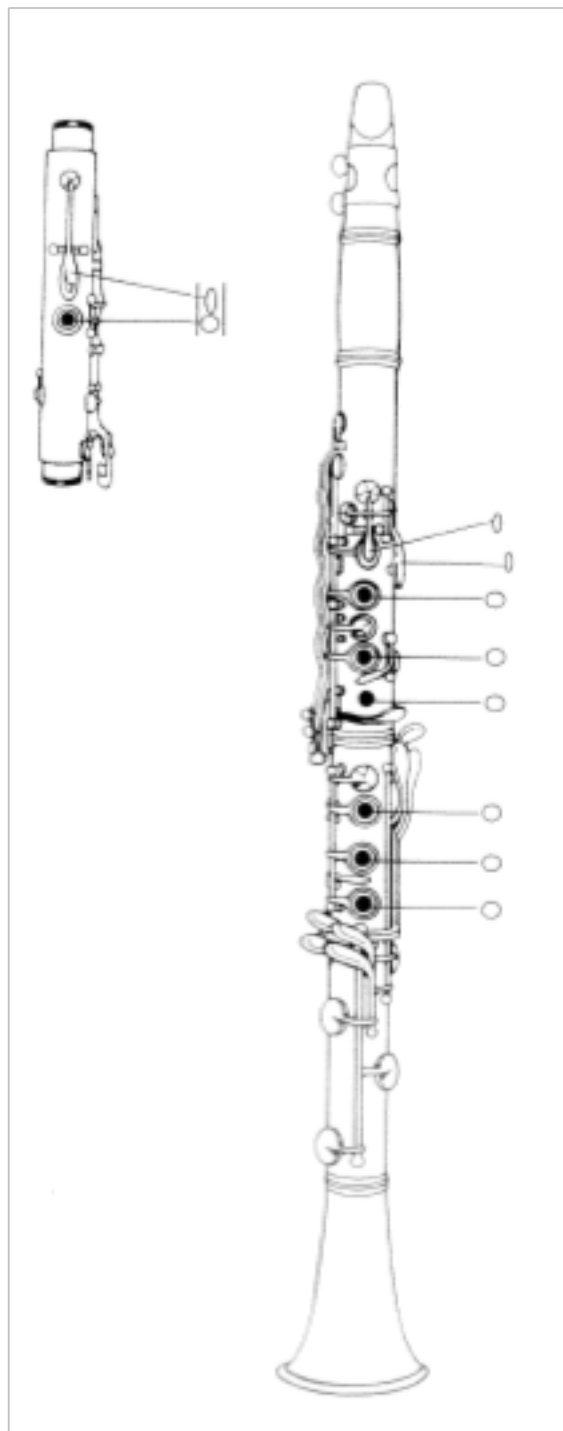
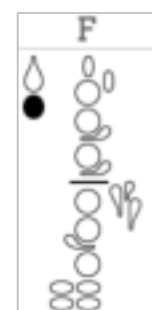
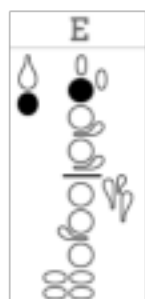
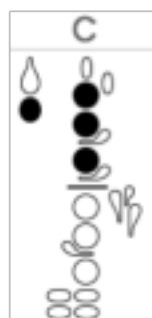
42. Jingle Bells



43. Good King Wenceslas

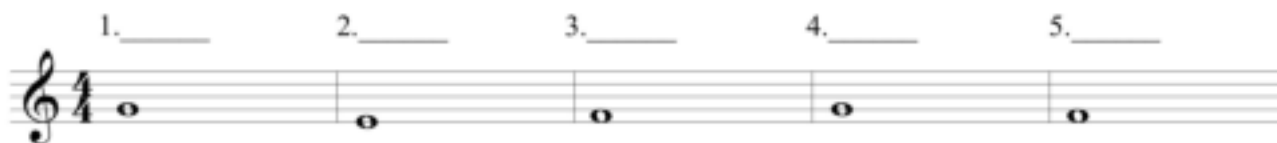


Reference Page



44. Five Note Review

Fill in the fingering and write the note name. Play each note on your clarinet.



45. New Note- A



The note A is written on the second space on the staff

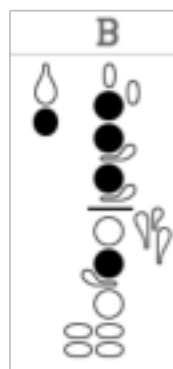
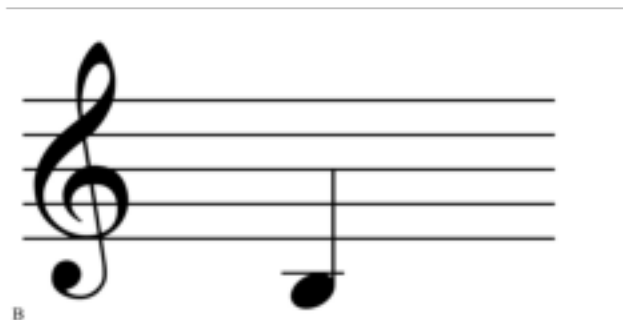
46. Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star



47. Grand March



48. New Note- Low B



The note B is written on space below the first ledger line of the staff.

49. Grand March (Harmony)



50. Rain Rain, Stay Away



54. Ode to Joy



55. When the Saints Go Marching In



56. Mary Ann



57. Shoo Fly



58. On the Bridge at Avignon



59. Lightly Row



60. Bile Them Cabbage Down



61. Surprise Symphony

Theme



Variation



62. B-flat Five Note Scale Exercise



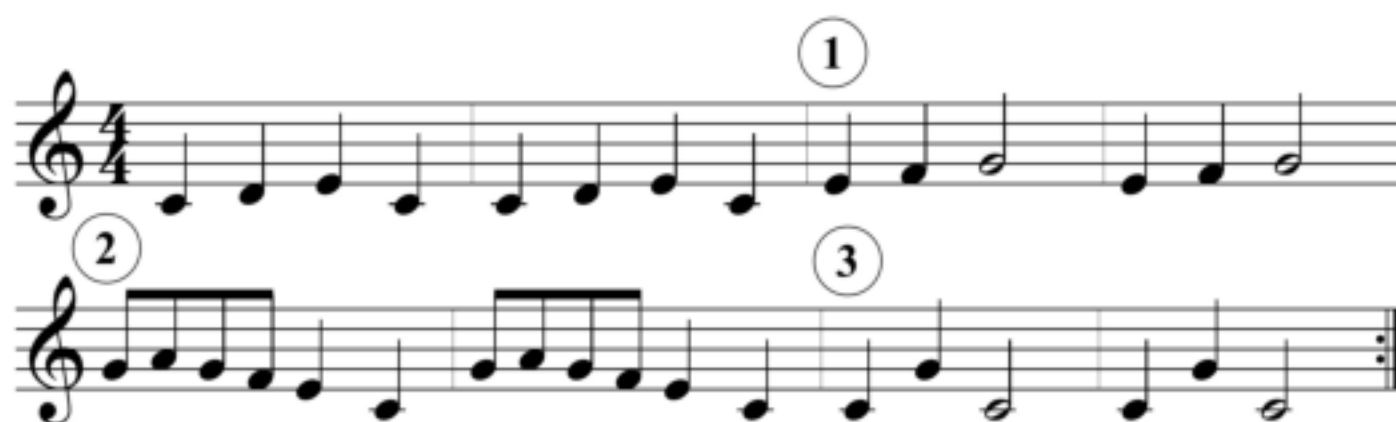
63. London Bridge (duet)



64. Stodola Pumpa



65. Frere Jacques



66. Mexican Jumping Beans



67. Southern Roses

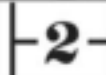


Musical Symbols We Know

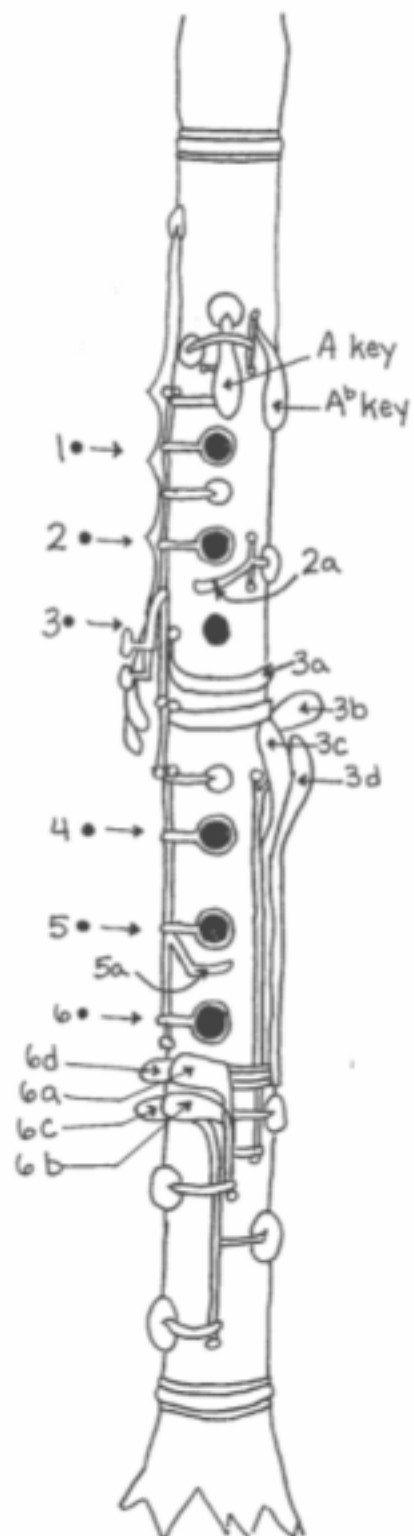
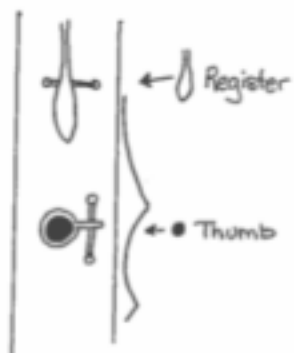
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			

Treble Clef: Band

Musical Symbols We Know

	Whole note: Four beats of sound.		Treble Clef
	Half note: Two beats of sound.		Natural Sign
	Quarter note: One beat of sound.		Flat Sign: Lowers a pitch a half step.
	Eighth note: One half beat of sound.		Sharp Sign: Raises a pitch a half step.
	Pair of eighth notes: One half beat of sound each.		<i>piano</i> : Play softly.
	Dotted half note: Three beats of sound.		<i>forte</i> : Play loudly
	Dotted quarter note: One and one half beats of sound.		<i>mezzo-piano</i> : Medium-soft
	Half rest: Two beats of silence.		<i>mezzo-forte</i> : Medium-loud
	Whole rest: Four beats of silence.		Staccato: Short and separated.
	Quarter rest: One beat of silence.		Accent: Attack the note stronger.
	Eighth rest: One half beat of silence.		Tenuto/Legato: Full value, smooth and connected.
	Five-line musical staff.		Crescendo: Gradually get louder.
	Measure		Decrescendo: Gradually get softer.
	Barline: divides staf into measures.		Fermata: Hold the note longer than its original value.
	Final barline: Ends a piece of music.		Slur: Curved line that connects two or more notes of different pitches.
	Repeat sign: Repeat a piece or section.		Common Time: Shorthand for 4/4
	Tie: Curved line that connects two or more notes of the same pitch.		
	Multi-Measure Rest: Rest for the number of measures indicated.		
	Breath Mark		

Treble Clef: Band



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Clarinet Fingering Chart

The chart displays fingerings for the following notes:

- E**: First finger (left hand) on E, thumb on D, index on C, middle on B, ring on A, pinky on G.
- F**: First finger (left hand) on F, thumb on E, index on D, middle on C, ring on B, pinky on A.
- G**: First finger (left hand) on G, thumb on F, index on E, middle on D, ring on C, pinky on B.
- A**: First finger (left hand) on A, thumb on G, index on F, middle on E, ring on D, pinky on C.
- B**: First finger (left hand) on B, thumb on A, index on G, middle on F, ring on E, pinky on D.
- C**: First finger (left hand) on C, thumb on B, index on A, middle on G, ring on F, pinky on E.
- D**: First finger (left hand) on D, thumb on C, index on B, middle on A, ring on G, pinky on F.
- E**: First finger (left hand) on E, thumb on D, index on C, middle on B, ring on A, pinky on G.
- F**: First finger (left hand) on F, thumb on E, index on D, middle on C, ring on B, pinky on A.
- G**: First finger (left hand) on G, thumb on F, index on E, middle on D, ring on C, pinky on B.
- A**: First finger (left hand) on A, thumb on G, index on F, middle on E, ring on D, pinky on C.
- A[#] B^b**: First finger (left hand) on A[#], thumb on G, index on F, middle on E, ring on D, pinky on C.
- B**: First finger (left hand) on B, thumb on A, index on G, middle on F, ring on E, pinky on D.
- C**: First finger (left hand) on C, thumb on B, index on A, middle on G, ring on F, pinky on E.

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