

# 12 Hole Ocarina fingering Chart 21 Total note

*Note: this ocarina fingering style was developed by sculptor Takashi Aketagawa in Japan in 1928*

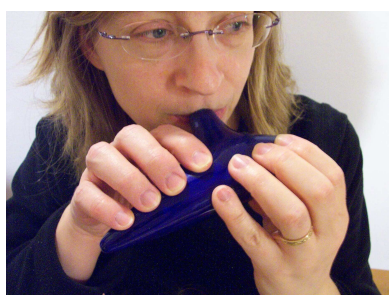
6s  La	6#=7b  	7s  Ti	1  Do	1#=2b  	2  Re	2#=3b  
3  Mi	4  Fa	4#=5b  	5  Sol	5#=6b  	6  La	6#=7b  
7  Ti	8  Do	8#=9b  	9  Re	9#=10b  	10  Mi	11  Fa

○ = open      S = subnotes or notes below the tonic or DO #1.      ● = closed

**Use your middle fingers to cover 2 holes to play the subnotes.**



Creating a sweet and pleasant sound on the Ocarina starts by covering all the holes completely. On a 12 hole Ocarina that would be the 8 holes on the top and the 2 thumb holes on bottom . The hole in the middle on the bottom makes the sound



so it is left uncovered .The two extra small holes on the top are used to produce 3 extra notes. The notes these holes produce are A , A# and B at the beginning of the scale. Try to use the pads of your fingers to cover the holes not the tips. Next blow gently with a steady even air pressure, about the same amount of air pressure you would use when you breath. Remember less is more, meaning less but steady even pressure produces a more pleasant sound. Next you need to learn to use “tonguing” because this is necessary to give the notes a crisp clear sound. Without tonguing the ocarina will

sound muffled and fuzzy. Start by putting your tongue on the roof of your mouth and say the word “two”. Practice by repeating “two,two,two” in a series of equal length breathes. Try playing a simple song like Twinkle , Twinkle Little Star using a gentle breath and tonguing.

Using our number system allows you to play songs without needing to be able to read music. The numbers refer to the notes on the musical scale , so number 1 would be the first note of the major scale “Do” and as you see on the chart this is all the holes covered , so number 2 or “Re” would be 1 hole open starting with the little finger on your right hand . When you first start, concentrate on the major scale Do, Re, Mi, Fa and up and then learn the sharps and flats as you need them for a song.

If your Ocarina is in another key besides C, play it the same way as a C but the note you hear will be in that key, say F or G. To find more music for your ocarina try looking in piano, guitar or recorder songbooks for more melodies to play ,writing the numbers from the fingering chart below the notes on the sheet music can help to learn new songs. Playing along with a guitar can also be fun.

Maintaining an Ocarina is easy. They are totally washable with mild soap and water ,they never need to be retuned but you must safeguard them from getting broken . It is best store them in a bag or a box. A well maintained Ocarina will last for hundreds of years.

This Ocarina carries on a tradition of fine Ocarina making started in Budrio, Italy in the mid 1800’s. Please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have. Thanks Chris Heuer and Amy Lake

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