

Alto Recorder Resource Teacher's Guide

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Themes & Variations

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All About The Recorder

The recorder is a very old instrument. The recorder was popular during the 16th and 17th centuries. Many famous composers of that time, including Bach, Handel, and Telemann, wrote music for the recorder. The recorder is made in different sizes. The smallest is a garklein recorder that is only six inches long! It is difficult to play because of the tiny holes, so the descant or soprano recorder is used more often for the highest notes. There is also an alto, tenor and a bass recorder. These five recorders can play five part music, just like a choir can sing in four or five parts. A recorder choir is called a consort.

All the recorders have eight holes. The LEFT hand covers the thumb hole at the back of the recorder and the first three holes. The RIGHT hand covers the four holes at the bottom of the recorder. (Some recorders have divided holes at the bottom.)

Sound is made by blowing softly into the recorder mouthpiece. It is very easy to overblow the recorder and make a harsh ugly sound. Blowing softly and steadily makes the best sound. Each note should be started with the syllable 'doo' or 'too.' This is called tonguing the note. The air should be continuous, interrupted only briefly by the tongue when a new note is begun.

How to Care For the Recorder



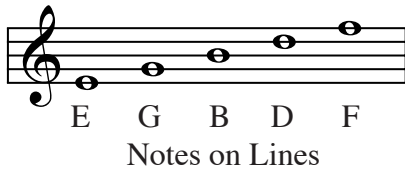
1. Recorders all look alike. Put your name on your recorder and on your case with a permanent marker. If you forget your recorder in the music room, your teacher will know it is yours.
2. Be careful not to bang the recorder against anything. Plastic can chip or crack.
3. Keep the mouthpiece clean. You can use a small brush or a pipe cleaner and water to wash out your mouthpiece.
4. Plastic recorders can be washed once in a while in warm, soapy water.
5. If your recorder is hard to put together, you can put a little Vaseline on the joints. If the joints are clean, they shouldn't need anything.
6. Keep your recorder in its case when you are not using it.
7. After playing, clean out the inside of your recorder with a narrow piece of cloth wound around the cleaning rod.

Supplies Needed to Care for the Recorder:

- * A cleaning rod and a narrow piece of cloth
- * A small mouthpiece brush or a pipe cleaner

How Notes are Named

Music is written on a staff. The staff has five lines. Notes can be written on each of the lines, or in the spaces between the lines.



There is a clef at the beginning of every staff. The clef used for the recorder is the treble clef. The treble clef circles the note G, and is sometimes called the G clef. The first seven letters of the alphabet, A-G, are used to name notes. Notes are named in order - A B C D E F G. After G is named, the letters are used again beginning with A.



Counting Music

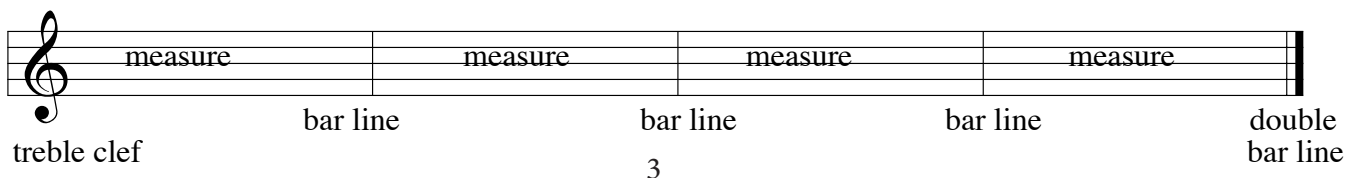
The table below shows most of the notes you will be using in this recorder method. It tells the name of the note, a rhythm name that you can call it, and how many beats the note will get in 4/4 time.

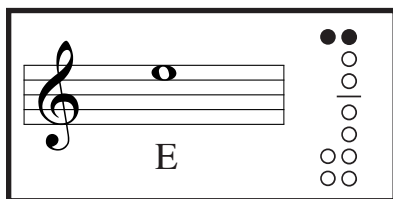
Quarter note		1 beat
Pair of eighth notes		together = 1 beat
Half note		2 beats
Dotted half note		3 beats
Whole note		4 beats

A rest is a silent beat. The table below shows most of the rests you will be using in this recorder method. It tells the name of the rest, a rhythm name that you can call it, and how many beats the rest will get in 4/4 time.

Quarter rest		1 beat
Half rest		2 beats
Whole rest		4 beats

Music is divided into short sections called **measures** or **bars**. The measures are marked off by **bar lines**. There is a **double bar line** at the end of each piece of music.





1. Learn to Play E

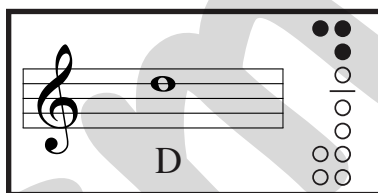
intro 4 beats

Chorus for E:

Soprano (sop): *Am* *C* *Am*

Alto (alto): *C* *Am* *C* *Am* *C*

The musical notation shows a 4/4 time signature. The soprano part has a whole note E in the first measure, followed by a half note E and a quarter note G in the second measure, and a whole note E in the third measure. The alto part has a whole note E in the first measure, followed by a half note E and a quarter note G in the second measure, and a whole note E in the third measure. The chorus consists of three measures, each with a whole note chord: *Am*, *C*, and *Am*.



2. Learn to Play D

intro 4 beats

Chorus for D:

Soprano (sop): *G* *D* *G* *D*

Alto (alto): *G* *D* *G* *D* *G*

The musical notation shows a 4/4 time signature. The soprano part has a whole note D in the first measure, followed by a half note D and a quarter note F# in the second measure, and a whole note D in the third measure. The alto part has a whole note D in the first measure, followed by a half note D and a quarter note F# in the second measure, and a whole note D in the third measure. The chorus consists of four measures, each with a whole note chord: *G*, *D*, *G*, and *D*.

3. Play E and D

intro 4 beats

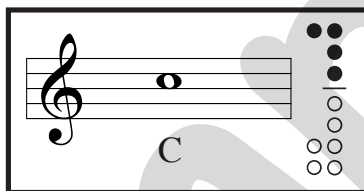
Chorus for Soprano and Alto parts, 4/4 time.

First Line:

- Chords: C, G, C, G, C
- Notes: Soprano (C4, G4, C5), Alto (C4, G4, C5)

Second Line:

- Chords: C, G, C, G, C, G, C
- Notes: Soprano (C4, G4, C5), Alto (C4, G4, C5)



4. Learn to Play C

intro 4 beats

Chorus for Soprano and Alto parts, 4/4 time.

First Line:

- Chords: C, Am, F, G7
- Notes: Soprano (C4, E4, F4, G4), Alto (C4, E4, F4, G4)

Second Line:

- Chords: C, Am, F, G7, C
- Notes: Soprano (C4, E4, F4, G4), Alto (C4, E4, F4, G4)

5. Nabe, Nabe

intro 4 beats

Japan

[illegible]

The image shows a musical score for two voices: Soprano (sop) and Alto (alto). The Soprano part is written on a treble clef staff, and the Alto part is written on a treble clef staff. The lyrics are written below the Alto staff. The music is in 4/4 time, indicated by the 'C' time signature. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), indicated by the 'Bb' symbol. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are 'So - ko - ga nu - ke - ta - ra ka - e - ri - ma - sho.' There are two measures of rest at the end of each part, followed by a double bar line and repeat dots.

sop
 alto
 So - ko - ga nu - ke - ta - ra ka - e - ri - ma - sho.

6. Play C, D, E

intro 4 beats

The image displays a musical score for the song "The Rose Tree." It is arranged for Soprano (sop) and Alto (alto) voices, accompanied by guitar. The score is written in 4/4 time and consists of two systems of staves.

System 1:

- Soprano (sop):** The melody begins on a whole note C4 (middle C), followed by a half note G4, and then a whole note C4. The notes are marked with "C" and "G7" above them.
- Alto:** The accompaniment starts with a half note C4, followed by a half note G4, and then a whole note C4.

System 2:

- Soprano (sop):** The melody continues with a half note C4, followed by a half note G4, and then a whole note C4. The notes are marked with "C" and "G7" above them.
- Alto:** The accompaniment continues with a half note C4, followed by a half note G4, and then a whole note C4.

The score concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots (||) at the end of both staves in the second system.

7. Sasara

intro 4 beats

Chords: C, Am, F, G7, C

sop

alto

sop

alto

8. Suo Gan

intro 8 beats

Chords: C, Am, F, G, C, Am, F, G, C

sop

alto

Su - o gan, East - ern star, su - o gan, from a - far.
Su - o gan, shep - herd sing, su - o gan, new - born king.

9. Bought Me a Cat

intro 8 beats

Traditional

Chords: C, G, C, G, C

sop

alto

Bought me a cat, the cat pleased me. Fed my cat un-der yon-der tree.

Cat went fid - dle - i - fee, 7 fid - dle - i - fee.

10. There Was a Bullfrog

intro 4 beats

C G7 C

sop

alto

There was a bull - frog liv - ing in the spring. Sing song pol - ly won't you

G7 C

sop

alto

ky - me - o. Had such a cold that he could not sing.

G7 C

sop

alto

Sing song pol - ly won't you ky - me - o.

11. Hot Cross Buns

intro 4 beats

C G C C G C C Dm C G C

sop

alto

Hot cross buns! Hot cross buns! One a pen-ny, two a pen-ny, Hot cross buns!

Variation 1

4/4

Variation 2

4/4

12. Grandma Grunts

intro 8 beats

sop C C G C

alto

Grand - ma Grunts said a cur-i-ous thing. I can whis tle and I can sing.

sop C G C

alto

That is what I heard her say. 'Twas no lon-ger than yes - ter - day!

sop C G C

alto

I can whis tle. (whistle) I can sing, "Tra - la la la la."

A

13. Learn to Play A

intro 4 beats

sop D A D A D

alto

14. Play A, C, E, D

intro 8 beats

Chord progression for "Play A, C, E, D":

Am G Am F G

Am G Am F E7 Am

Chords: Am, G, Am, F, G, Am, G, Am, F, E7, Am

Slur

A slur is the curved line that connects different notes in a slur. This means to play without tonguing. Tongue the first note, then move your fingers to the next note(s) without tonguing.

15. Skin and Bones

intro 5 beats

Chord progression for "Skin and Bones":

Am Dm Am

Traditional

There was an old wom - an all skin and bones.

Dm Am Fine

Fine

Ooo. There

2. She lived down by the old graveyard. Ooo.
3. One night she thought she'd take a walk. Ooo.
4. She walked down by the old graveyard. Ooo.

5. She saw the bones a layin' around. Ooo.
6. She went to the closet to get a broom. Ooo.
7. She opened the door and BOO!