

The Pocket Flute

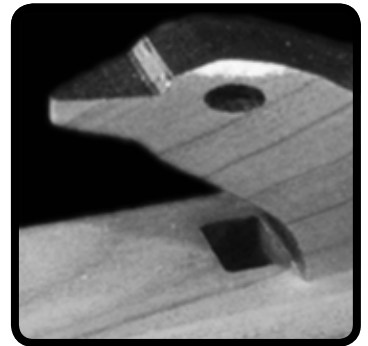


Part 4: Taking Care of Your Pocket Flute Key of "G"

***Take care with your flute
and it will take care of you.***

General Care

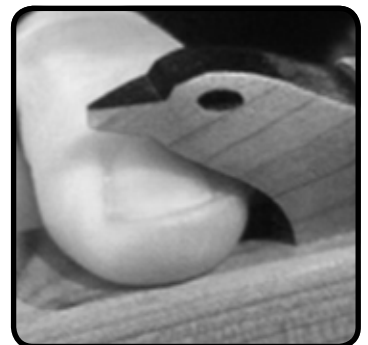
The wooden bird tied on top of your Pocket Flute is called the fetish. To produce the best sound be sure this fetish be tied down tightly and that it sits just in back of and centered on the sound hole (square hole). The sound hole should not be covered by the fetish (see image to right). Over time the leather will stretch and will need to be retightened. When doing this don't worry too much about the fetish positioning as you will be able to readjust it afterwards.



- Avoid displaying or storing your flute in direct sunlight.
- Do not store the instrument in excessively hot locations, such as a car.
- To help prevent damage, avoid placing your flute on a chair, sofa, bed or floor, or where pets can get a hold of it.
- Your Pocket Flute is finished with Tung Oil (a non-toxic oil). If you wish to oil or refinish the flute, be sure to use a non-toxic material that you are willing to put your mouth on.

Moisture Buildup

While playing your flute, condensation from your breath builds up in the air chamber, often clogging it and making the flute sound off tone. Until your mouth becomes used to the mouth piece this can occur frequently. One solution is to partially cover the sound hole with your finger (to mute the flute) and blow hard into the flute to push any water out. Then hold the flute by the bottom end (opposite of mouthpiece) and shake it out. Using the correct embouchure (see Part 1: Beginning Techniques) when playing will also help in reducing moisture buildup.



Answers often come from the most unexpected places.

Troubleshooting

The sound is weak or buzzy.

- Make sure that all the fingering holes are completely closed. Flatten your fingers and use your finger pads rather than the tips.
- If the flute has been played a lot, check for moisture buildup.

The low (bottom) note breaks to a high note or is squeaky.

- Make sure that all the fingering holes are completely closed. Flatten your fingers and use your finger pads rather than the tips.
- Use less air pressure when you play the note. If you apply too much pressure to the bottom note it will break to the next octave.

The flute sounds off key or makes unpleasant sounds .

- Make sure all of the fingering holes are completely closed. Flatten your fingers and use your finger pads rather than the tips.
- Increase or decrease the breath pressure to make the note sharper or flatter, respectively.
- Be sure you are keeping the third finger from the mouthpiece closed at all times when playing the basic scale (the pentatonic minor scale).