

Bassoon Fingering Chart

The following bassoon fingering chart represents the best fingerings available for the bassoon, based on intonation and tone quality. There are many alternate fingerings available for the bassoon but most are either out of tune or cause the note to sound very poorly and should only be used under very special conditions and not as a base fingering.

Special attention should be paid to the fingerings of notes marked with a number. These are some of the most commonly misunderstood notes of which many fingering charts substitute poor fingerings for the more stable fingerings listed here. Brief explanations on each of these fingerings are included on page 4.

3,4 4 4 5

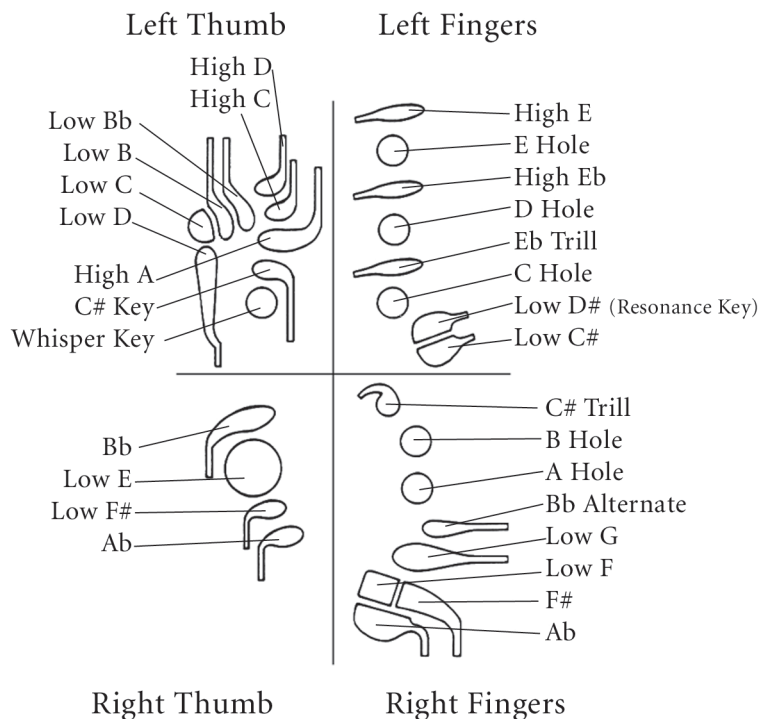
This section shows the fingering for notes 3, 4, and 5. Each note is represented by a musical staff with a bass clef and a single note. Below each staff are two columns of diagrams: the left column shows the left hand fingering, and the right column shows the right hand fingering. For note 3, the left hand uses fingers 3 and 4, and the right hand uses fingers 1 and 2. For note 4, the left hand uses fingers 1 and 2, and the right hand uses fingers 3 and 4. For note 5, the left hand uses fingers 1 and 2, and the right hand uses fingers 1 and 2.

5 5 5 5 5

This section shows the fingering for five instances of the note 5. Each instance is represented by a musical staff with a bass clef and a single note. Below each staff are two columns of diagrams: the left column shows the left hand fingering, and the right column shows the right hand fingering. For the first three instances, the left hand uses fingers 1 and 2, and the right hand uses fingers 1 and 2. For the fourth instance, the left hand uses fingers 1 and 2, and the right hand uses fingers 3 and 4. For the fifth instance, the left hand uses fingers 1 and 2, and the right hand uses fingers 1 and 2.

6 6 6 6 6

This section shows the fingering for five instances of the note 6. Each instance is represented by a musical staff with a bass clef and a single note. Below each staff are two columns of diagrams: the left column shows the left hand fingering, and the right column shows the right hand fingering. For the first three instances, the left hand uses fingers 1 and 2, and the right hand uses fingers 1 and 2. For the fourth instance, the left hand uses fingers 1 and 2, and the right hand uses fingers 3 and 4. For the fifth instance, the left hand uses fingers 1 and 2, and the right hand uses fingers 1 and 2.



Notes on selected fingerings

1. Make sure Low D, C# and Whisper keys are used.
2. Variations on Eb include:
 - a. No resonance key
 - b. Use 1st finger, right hand instead of 2nd finger, right hand
 - c. Any combination of the above

It is important to find the correct fingering for Eb on each bassoon. Be sure to match both the fingering's intonation and tone quality compared to the notes above and below when evaluating the fingerings for this note.

3. Ensure that the little finger F# is used instead of the thumb F# key to improve tone and intonation.
4. Half Hole

The half hole notes of F#, G and G# need particular attention paid to the sound of the beginning of each note. To ensure the correct amount of half hole and hence guaranteeing a clean attack, keep in mind that the amount of half hole on each note varies. The F# uses the most, G a little less and G# even less. To a certain extent, the amount of half hole varies on each bassoon so every bassoonist must determine the amount that his/her instrument requires and incorporate this into their practicing.
5. Flicking

Each key marked in gray must be flicked, on their assigned note, to ensure a clean attack or clean slur. To flick, lightly tap the grayed key as the note is articulated or slurred to. Coordination of this technique takes some practice but mastery will cure the problems that these notes cause for many bassoonists.
6. All notes from E to the uppermost notes on the bassoon must have the resonance key pressed.

Check the JDRP website at www.jonesdoublereed.com for future updates to the fingerings discussed here and more indepth discussions on many double reed topics.

Post your double reed questions on the JDRP message board at <http://www.jonesdoublereed.com/forum/default.asp> or email the Reed Advisor at reedadvisor@jonesdoublereed.com