

Also available as APP!



THE BOOK

Learn to play the recorder
step by step

for Baroque & German



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Preface

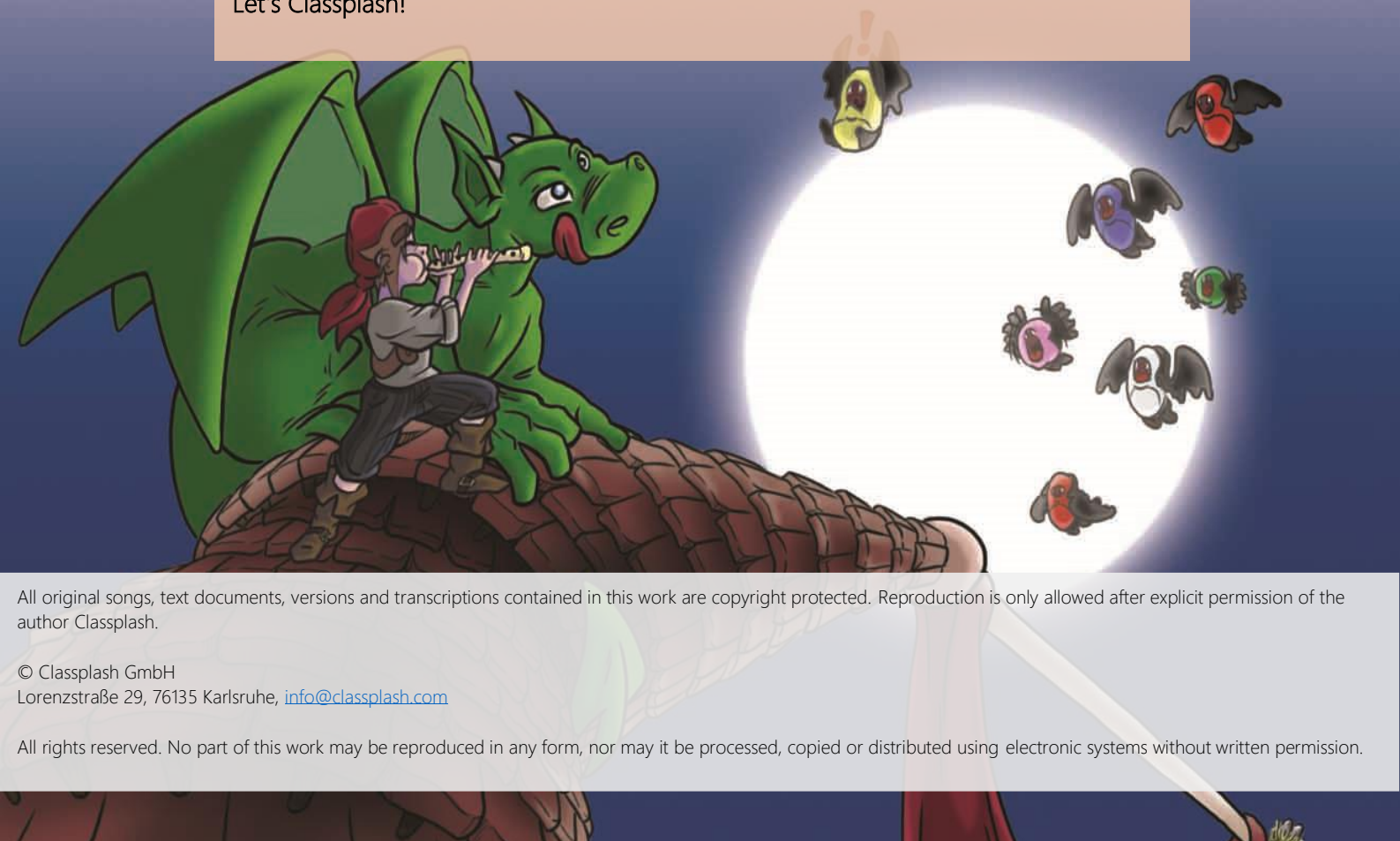
Are you ready to go on a **musical adventure**? In this book, you will dive into the world of music and **learn step by step** how to play the **soprano recorder**. The book explains the basics in a playful way, and you can access the matching background music for free online. Playing the recorder is even more fun with our innovative [Flute Master App](#), which listens to your playing and gives you **direct feedback**. If you want to purchase it, you can find it in all common app stores.

This book includes **27 songs** which teach you how to play the recorder step by step. From rock and reggae to classical music – there is something for **every musical taste** and soon you will be able to play all kinds of songs!

If you have ever seen sheet music before, you will soon notice that the notes in this book are different. They are colorful and look like little bats, because this book is not a boring schoolbook, but an **exciting adventure** in which you must **help the dragon Cornelius** defend his strawberry tower against the greedy bats by practicing hard and playing the right notes.

Now set off on your adventurous journey to a new world - the world of music!

Let's Classplash!



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Introduction

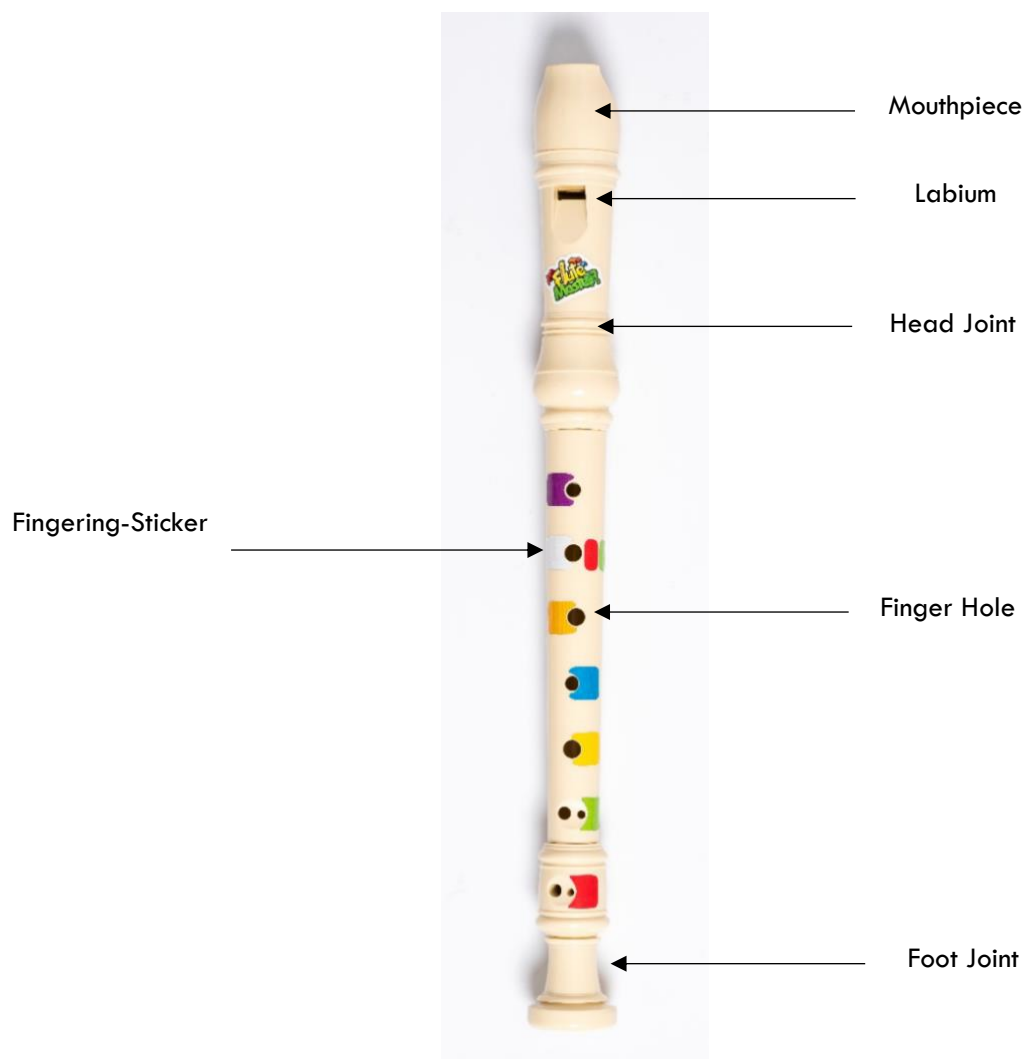


The Soprano Recorder

The soprano recorder is a **woodwind musical instrument**. Recorders are available in different sizes which result in different vocal ranges. The recorder belongs to the oldest musical instruments we know of and its **predecessors** were already being played in the early **Middle Ages**! Now you could think: Middle Ages? That is totally old-fashioned! But that depends entirely on how you decide to use the recorder. You can also play **modern chart hits** on it, just check out our [YouTube channel](#) and get inspired.

Modern recorders are available in wood, plastic or a mixture of the two materials. They differ in price and sound. For **beginners**, we recommend a **plastic recorder** because it is **cheaper** and much **easier to clean**.

Below, you can see a **soprano recorder** and learn the **names** of its most important **elements**:



You don't have a recorder yet? With our [Flute Master Bundle](#) you can purchase a high quality plastic recorder that is ideal for beginners together with the premium license for the app!



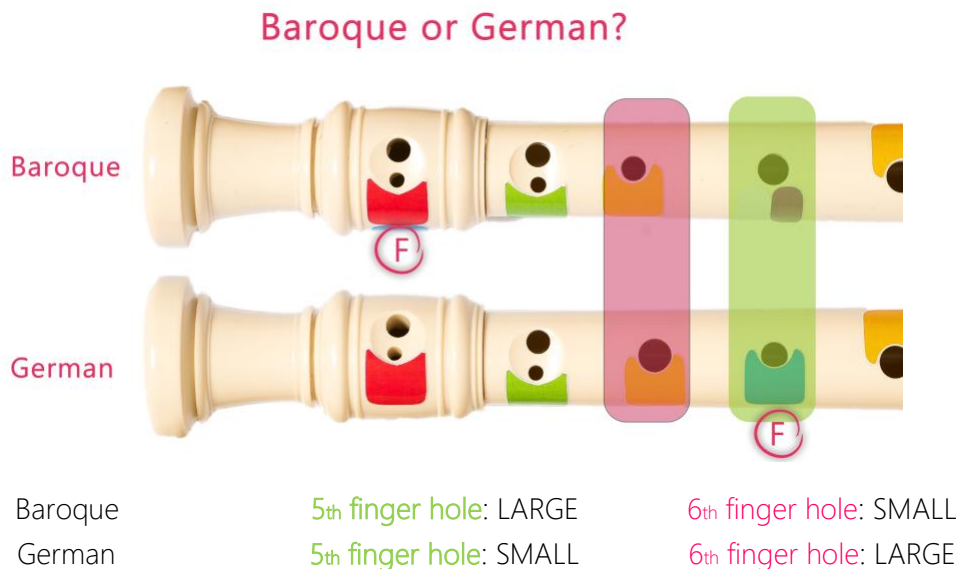


Recorder vs. Flute – What is the Difference?

Originally, the instrument this book is about was called “flute”. However, over the years this term has become the name of the transverse flute and **today** we thus usually use the term “**recorder**”. As our app has first been created for **German** students, we decided to call it “Flute Master” as the German word for recorder is “**Flöte**” and “Recorder Master” just didn’t sound well to our ears.

Baroque or German?

What does Baroque or German mean? With an instrument that has existed for so many centuries, it is not surprising that the **way it is built** has **slightly changed over time**. Today, the recorder is available in **both Baroque and German fingering**. You can tell them apart by the **size of the lower finger holes** (whether your flute has double holes at the bottom has nothing to do with this). This image illustrates the difference:



Starting from the top, the **5th finger hole** on the **Baroque** recorder is **larger than** the **6th** finger hole. On the **German** recorder it is exactly the **opposite way around**. This difference in construction means that some notes must be fingered differently on the different recorders. You will find out how exactly to do that later when you learn the note F. **Our stickers**, which you can place on your recorder, will also **help you** to find the **correct finger positions**.

You already **have a recorder** but no **matching stickers yet**? Our stickers are ideal for **beginners** and if you wish, you can even [purchase them](#) together with our app license!








Attaching the Stickers

Our **stickers** not only make your recorder more **individual** and **cooler**; they also **help you** to **hit the right notes** and learn the different fingerings. Each colour corresponds to a **note** and therefore also to a **finger position**. Our video "[How to use our recorder stickers](#)" shows you how to stick them on correctly. You can find the video on our YouTube channel or by simply scanning this QR code.



Using our QR Codes and Links

Use our **QR codes** to play the matching **background music**  on your smartphone or tablet. Do you find it hard to play along? Then use the audio track **background music + melody**.  

In addition to the accompanying music, you will also find **further links** to helpful videos and to our apps of the world of music. If you are reading this book as an e-book, you can **click directly** on them.

Flute Master – The App

The [Flute Master App's](#) innovative tone recognition technology allows you to **learn interactively**! It recognizes which tones you play and tells you immediately if you hit the right ones or not. Furthermore, the learning process is packed into an **adventurous story**, making it an **exciting game**: You have to help the friendly dragon Cornelius and defend his strawberry tower against ravenous bats by hitting the right notes on your recorder.



You can **download** the app **for free**, try it out and start your adventure. If you like it, you can then decide to purchase it!



Holding your Recorder Correctly

In order to be able to stand well even after several hours of hard practice, you should always make sure that your **back** is **straight and relaxed**. This will not only make you look cooler, but also **prevent back pain**.

For the **right technique**, pay attention to the following points:

1. The **left hand** handles the **"upper" notes**. It is positioned above the right hand on the upper part of the recorder. With thumb and forefinger, you cover the uppermost front and back fingerhole, then place the remaining three fingers of the left hand on the next three holes.
2. You use your **right thumb to support** your **recorder** from the back and with the remaining four **fingers** of your right hand, you cover the rest of the finger holes on the **lower front** of your recorder.
3. You place the **mouthpiece** on your **lower lip** and **enclose** the air supply with your **upper lip**.
4. To play a note, you **blow a gentle "du"** into the mouthpiece. It is important that you do this gently as otherwise the tones will sound unpleasant.





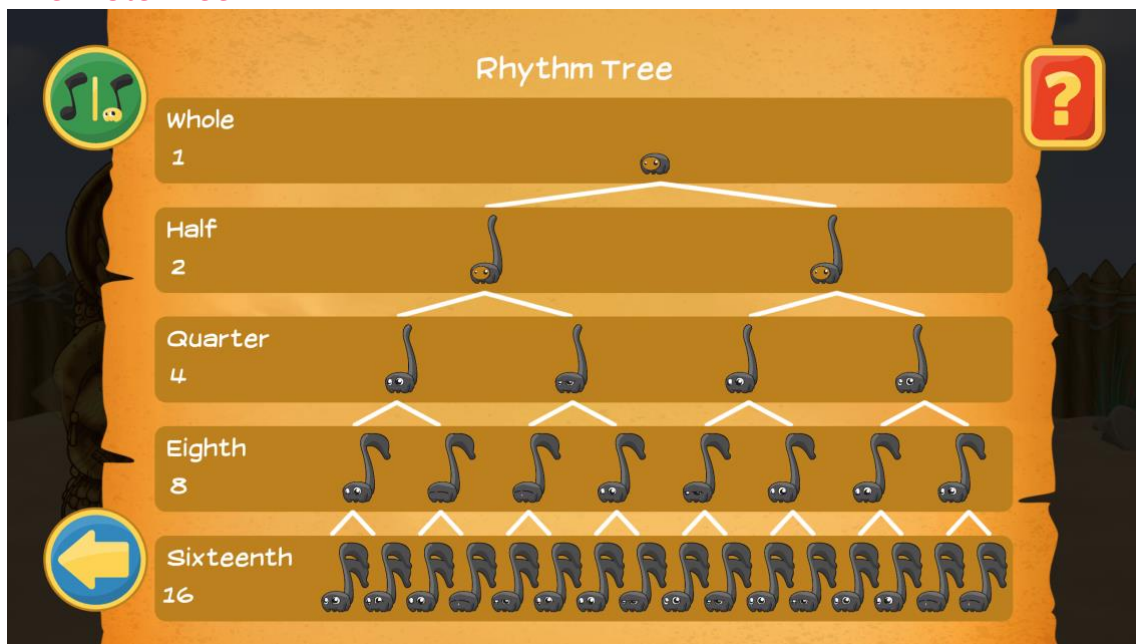
The Notation

Before we start, let's have a quick look at the notation. In the following section you will learn some **musical terms**. Further explanations of the note values we use in this book can be found at the very end, on the **last pages**. If you want to learn **more about notes and rhythm**, have a look at our apps [Rhythmic Village](#) and [Cornelius Composer](#), in which it is your task to teach young sailors how to read notes, drum and compose.

You can find more information's on www.classplash.com/rhythmicvillage and www.classplash.com/corneliuscomposer.

The following illustrations are taken from the apps Rhythmic Village and Cornelius Composer:

The Note Tree



This is the **Note Tree**. It shows you the most commonly used **note values**.

At the **top** you see the **longest note** used in music today: the "**Whole Note**". From there, you go down always dividing by two. Next comes the "**Half Note**", which is half the length of the "Whole Note". 2 "Half Notes" make 1 "Whole Note". Then comes the "**Quarter Note**" (also known as "Crotchet" in British English), which is a quarter of the "Whole Note". So, you need 4 "Quarter Notes" to make 1 "Whole Note", and so on.

Do you see how it works? With **each level** you go **down** in the note tree, the **duration** of the note is **halved**. In reverse, the **number of notes** you need to form 1 "Whole Note" is **doubled**, and so on.



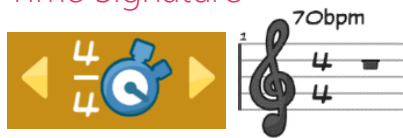
The System of Notation

To display the notes, we use a **standardized system of notation**. With the help of **5 lines**, **4 spaces** and a **clef** (usually a "treble clef"), you can notate melodies in a way that any musician can read them. **Low notes** are written on the **lower lines** and the **higher up** the notes are, the **higher their pitch**. Some songs have particularly high or particularly low notes. In these cases, the 5 lines are not enough, and **auxiliary lines** or **other clefs** are used. Have a look at this [video](#) to learn more.

Below, you see **red notes** written on the lines and **green notes** in the spaces between them:

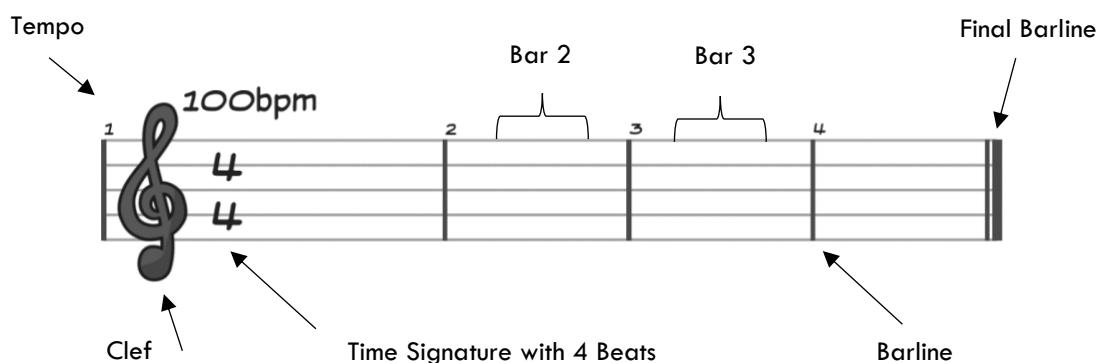


Time Signature



Here you see a **time signature**. It is **written behind the clef** and represented by two numbers. The **upper number** tells you **how many beats** occur in a bar and the **lower number** tells you the **kind of note**, i.e. how long one beat lasts.

A very common time signature is the **4/4 time**. In this time signature there are **four beats per bar** (the upper number "4") and **each** of these beats **represents a quarter note** (the lower number "4"). A quarter note is notated with a "4" because you can divide 1 "whole note" into 4 quarter notes. If you are no longer sure how to do this, have another look at the note tree on the previous page.



Other time signatures work by the same principle: a 3/4 bar can hold 3 quarter notes, a 6/8 bar can hold 6 quavers, and so on.

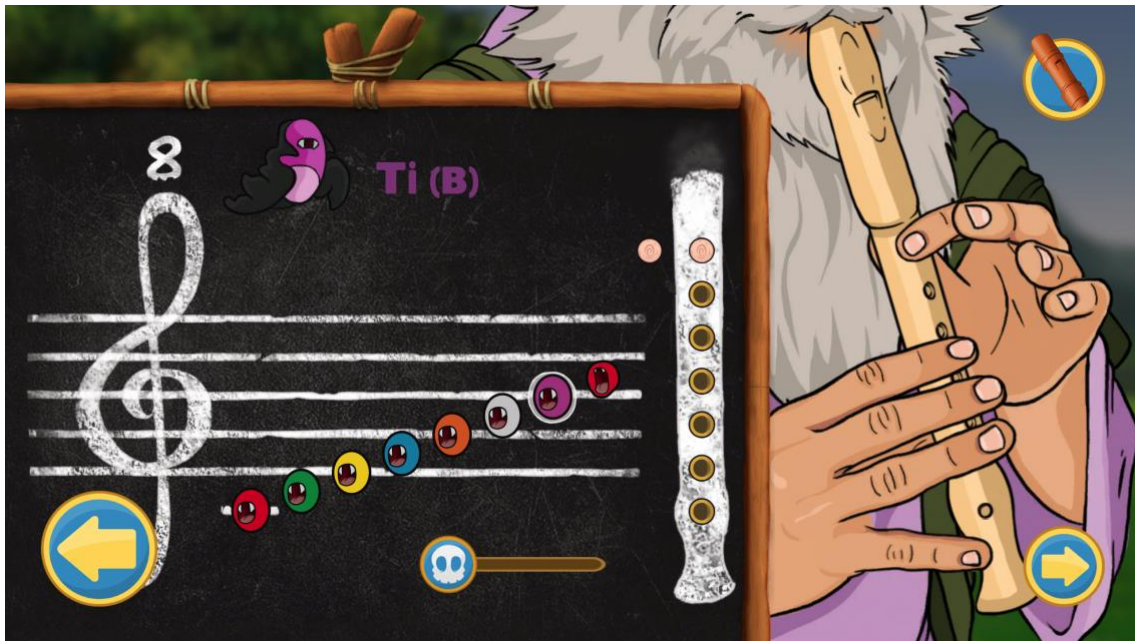


Learning to play

The First Note – B

(Level 1)

Let's start with your **first note**! In the picture, the wise Albert from our story shows you the correct finger position to play the note "B". You use your **left hand** for it. With your **left thumb** you cover the **finger hole on the back** of your flute and with your **left index finger** you cover the **top hole on the front**. You only need the thumb of your right hand to hold your recorder.



Note-Analysis

1.

Name: B

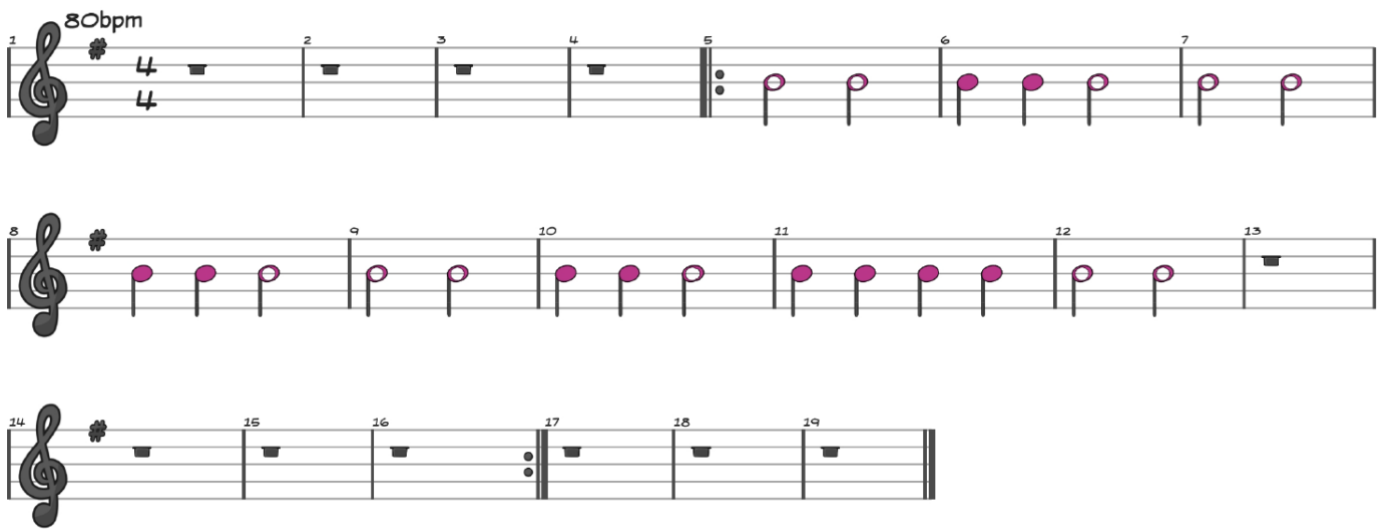
Position: Sits on line 3

Colour: Purple

Level 1 | Max Score: 2289



Little Cornelius



Tip: You can **scan** the **QR codes** with your smartphone or simply **click on them** (e-book) as well as on the **links**. Do you still need the **melody to accompany the background music**? Then this QR code (on the right) will help you!





Caribbean Bee



Tip: Always remember not to blow into the flute with full force, but **gently and controlled** – as if you wanted to say "Du".





Groovy Sailor

100bpm

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26



Tip: Make sure that the **background music** is **not too loud**. You should always be able to hear yourself well, after all, the **focus** is on **learning**.



The New Note – A (Level 2)

You already played all three songs with a "B" in them? Great job! Then we'll continue with the note "A". To play an "A", in addition to the hole on the back and the uppermost finger hole on the front, you **also cover the second hole from the top**. Use your **left middle finger** for this. You still only need your right hand to stabilize the flute with your thumb. See how Albert does it:



Note: Don't be surprised about the "8" above the treble clef. We need this because the notes on the soprano recorder are actually one octave higher than the notes displayed on the notation system. The "8" therefore stands for the octave.

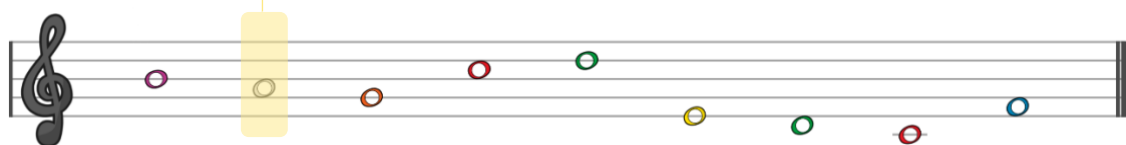
Note-Analysis

Name: A

Position: Sits between lines 2 and 3

Colour: White

Level 2 | Max Score: 2536



2.



Bluesy Shoes

65bpm

1 2 3 4 5

6 7 8 9

10 11 12 13

14 15

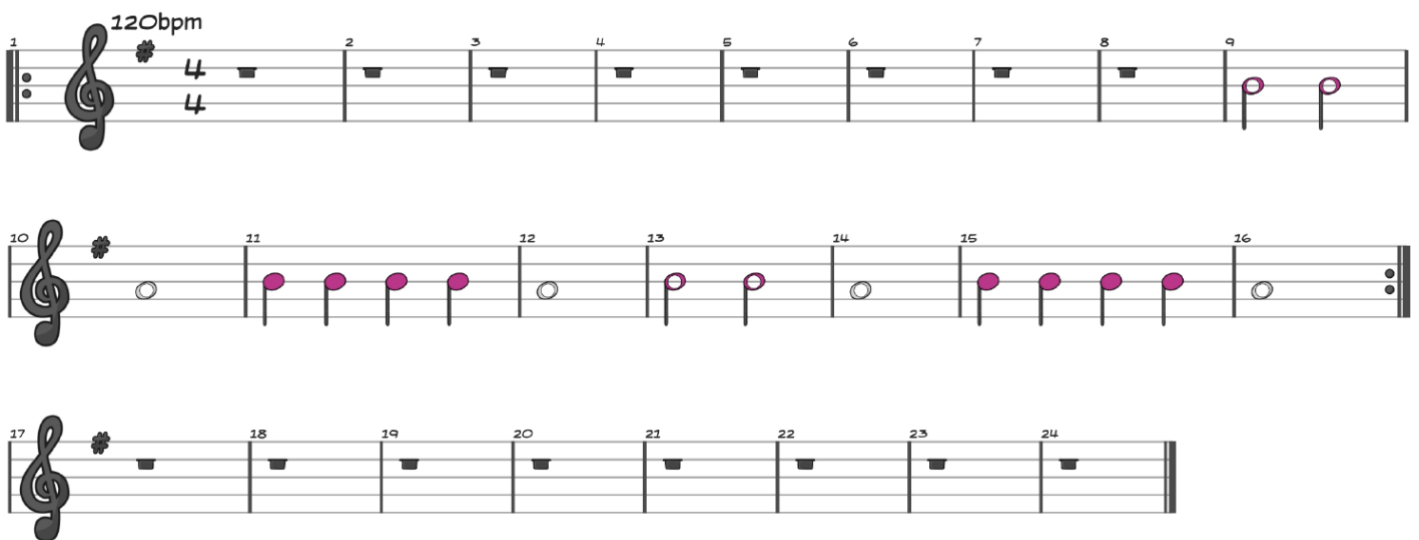


Tip: Remember, **practice makes perfect!** The most effective way to learn is to **play for 10 - 20 minutes every day**. This will help you learn more than a single long session a week.





Oratio's Adventures



Tip: To prevent saliva from entering your recorder's **mouthpiece**, place it **relaxed** and **lightly** on the **front part** of your lips.





Ocean Breeze

80bpm

4/4



Tip: Set yourself the goal of **playing a song to your family** sometime! This strengthens your **self-confidence** and is an additional **motivation** to practice!





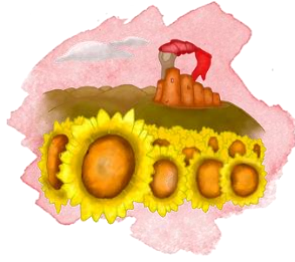
King's Tone Town

80bpm



Tip: Do you need the melody to accompany the music? Then this QR code will help you! With the Flute Master App you can also play in karaoke mode.





Countryside

80bpm



Tip: If possible do not play immediately after eating! If you blow into your recorder, food particles might get into it! Ideally, you should therefore **brush your teeth before playing**.





Dancing Tree

80bpm

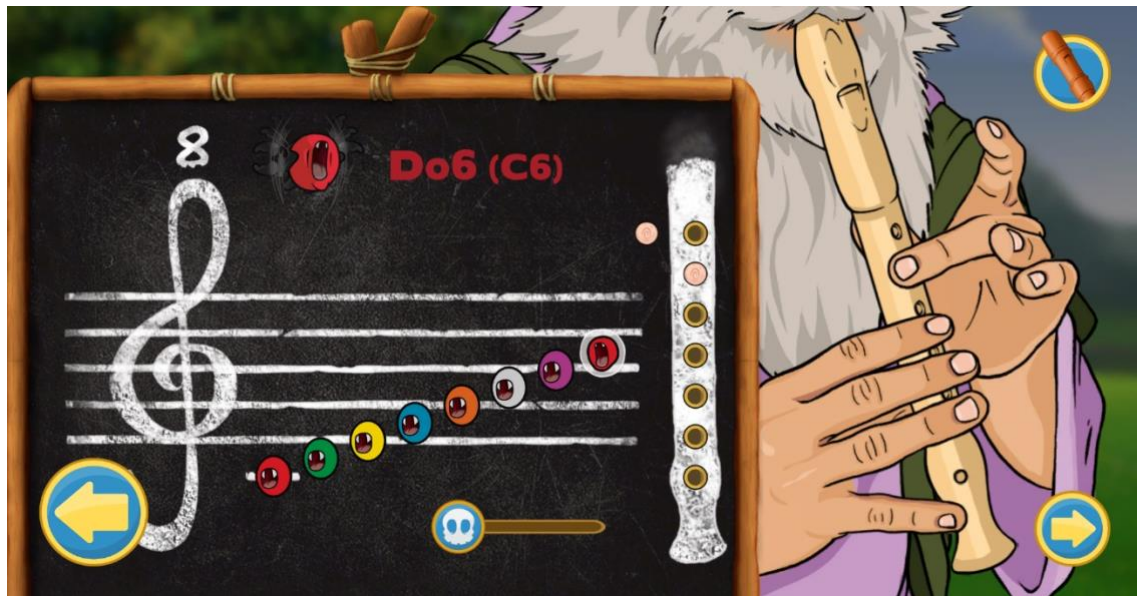


Tip: Does your recorder **sound different** than usual? **Recorder hoarseness** is mainly caused by the **accumulation of saliva** in the wind tunnel. To fix this, take off the head joint and **blow moisture out** towards the mouthpiece.



The New Note – High C (Level 4)

For the "high C" continue to use only your **left hand** and **raise all fingers on the front side** of the recorder **except** your **middle finger**. With your left thumb you keep the back hole covered and with your right thumb you support the recorder. This is the finger position for the "high C".



In Flute Master the "high C" is a **red bat** like the "low C", but it is **smaller** and a "6" is added to its name. But why the "6"? That number originates from the piano which has 88 keys divided into 7 octaves - from C1 to C7. With the recorder you can play notes from C5 to C7. The "high C" you have just learned is the note of the **key C6 on the piano** - quite high, isn't it?

Note-Analysis

Name: C6

Position: Sits between lines 3 and 4

Colour: Red

Level 4 | Max Score: 4589

4.



Indie Albert

180bpm

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33

34 35 36 37



Tip: Maybe you want to switch to the **clarinet** later? Then the **recorder** is the **perfect** preparation because both instruments are played with a **similar** finger system.





Vamps in the House

90bpm

4/4



Tip: When you are practicing, make sure you focus on the parts where you still stumble or have to stop again and again.





Masquerade Ball

120bpm

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

10 11 12 13 14 15 16

17 18 19 20 21 22 23

24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

32 33 34



Tip: Never write the names (C, D, etc.) below the notes! If you still have difficulties reading the music, take a look at the following video: [Reading music](#)



The New Note – High D (Level 5)

Great, progress! Now you will learn the **highest note** in this book - the "high D"! Compared to the finger position you learned above for the "high C", you now **also raise your left thumb** so that the finger hole on the back is no longer covered.



In our story, the "D" is a green bat. And like the "high C", the "high D" is a **smaller bat** than the "low D".

Note-Analysis

Name: D6

Position: Sits on line 4

Colour: Green

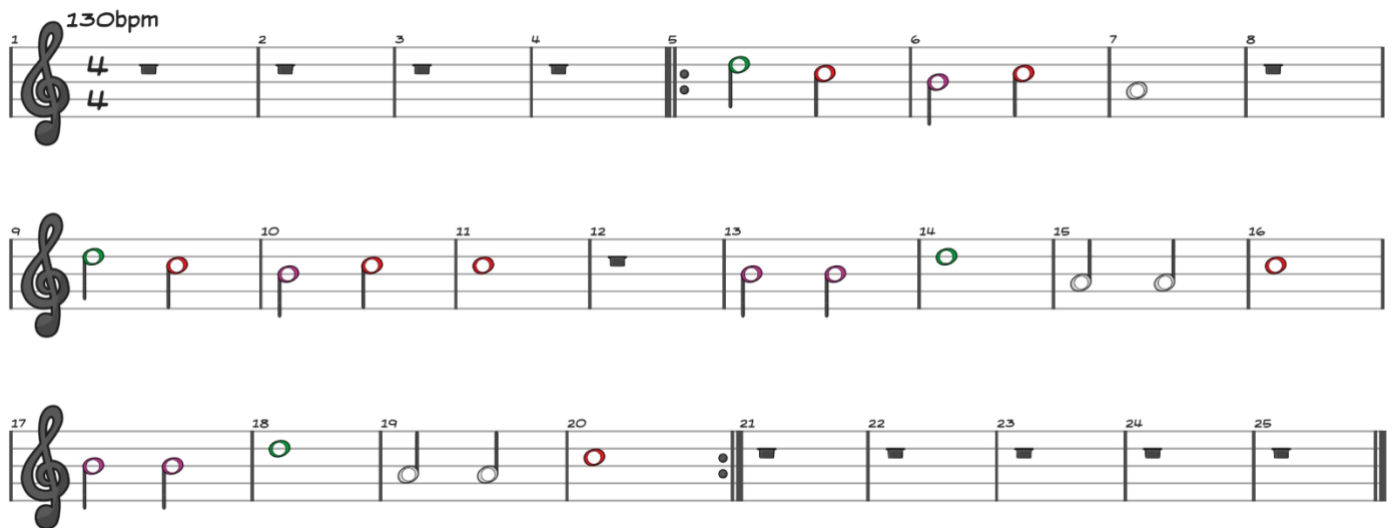
Level 5 | Max. Score: 2970

5.



Popular Pirate

130bpm




Tip: Do you need the **melody to accompany the music**? Then this **QR code** will help you! With the [Flute Master App](#), you can also play in **karaoke mode**.





Shuffle Notes

125bpm



Tip: Handle your recorder with **care** so that it does not get hoarse. **Warm the head joint** with your hands **before playing** - but never put it on the radiator, your recorder doesn't like that!





The Clock

80bpm

1 2 3 4 5

6 7 8 9 10 11

12 13

1 2



Good to know: Playing music increases **concentration**, **fine motor skills**, **cognitive abilities** & **creativity**! It also releases **endorphins** that make you happy - keep it up!





Eddie

120bpm



Tip: Mute finger exercises, i.e. the **soundless playing** of a melody, are also **good training**. Especially if you quickly "get out of breath"!



Native Discoveries

12Obpm

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35



Tip: Relaxation exercises are important! If your fingers are getting tired, let your arms hang loosely and feel really heavy, and then continue to play with **renewed energy**.





Soul of a Pirate

80bpm

1 2 3 4 5

6 7 8 9 10

11 12 13 14 15

16 17 18 19 20 21 22

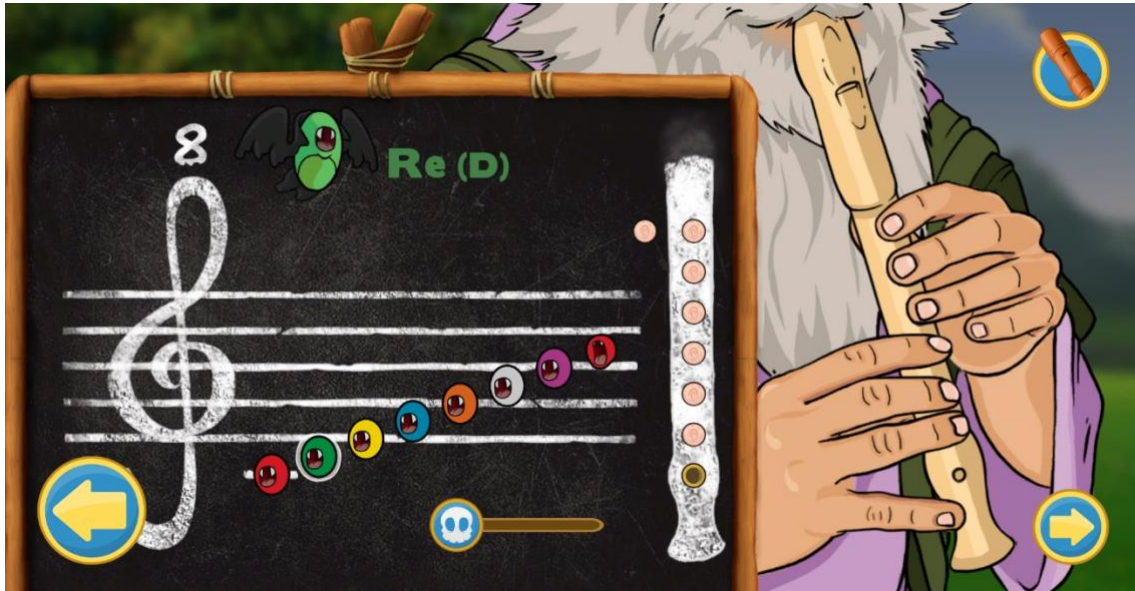


Tip: Do you still have difficulties with the note values? The last pages of this book offer some help. In addition, you can learn the basics of note values and rhythm with ease in our App [Rhythmic Village](#) - check it out!



The New Note – Deep D (Level 7)

Great, you are on your way to becoming a real flute master! With **four** fingers of your left hand and **three** fingers of your right hand you play the "deep D".



Here you see the **green bat** again. But it is **bigger** and therefore flies slower than a "high D"-bat.

Note-Analysis

Name: D

Position: Sits below line 1

Colour: Green

Level 7 | Max. Score: 4322

7.



Oratio's Mission

120bpm



Tip: Do you need the melody to accompany the music? Then this QR code will help you! With our [Flute Master App](#) you can also play in karaoke mode.



Oh Happy Day

70bpm



Tip: You should practice music **pieces that are difficult** for you **more slowly**. With our app [Cornelius Composer](#), you can download pieces of music and **adjust their speed**. Give it a try!





Ode to Joy

90bpm

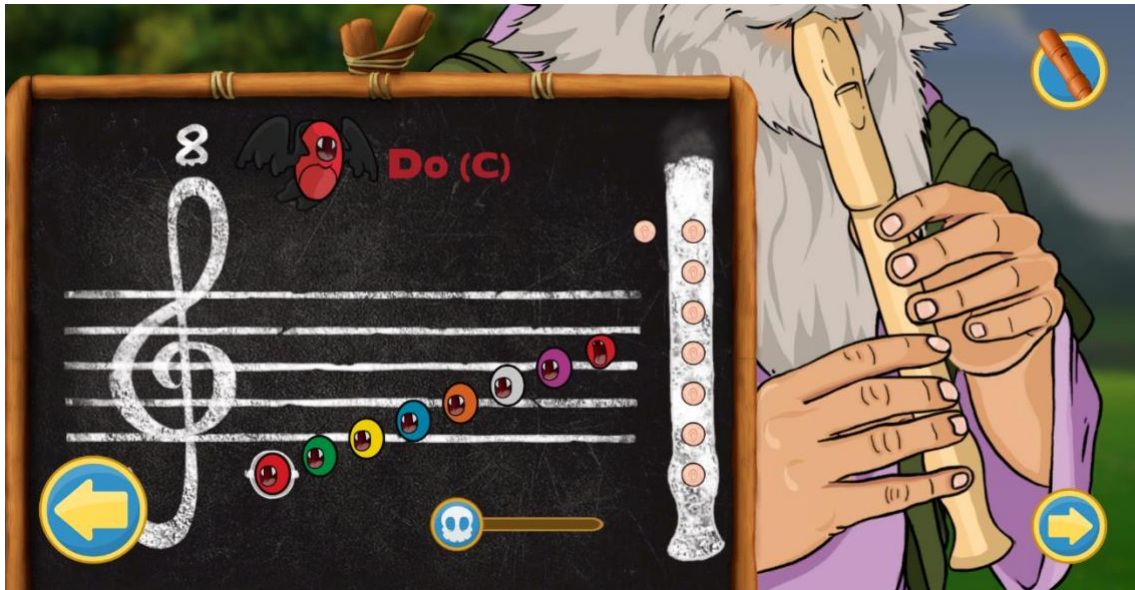


Tip: Even though you practice regularly, a song just doesn't work? Don't give up. Just skip the song and try again a few days later, usually it will already work much better then!



The New Note – Deep C (Level 8)

As soon as you can play the "low C", you will be able to play the **C major pentatonic**, i.e. the notes (deep) C, (deep) D, E, G, A, (high) C. Perhaps the next song will remind you of Asian music, where this pentatonic is traditionally used. The deep C is the deepest note on your recorder, you play it by also closing the lowest fingerhole with the little finger of your right hand.



Like the "high C", the "low C" is also a **red bat**. But it flies lower, is **bigger** and also **slower**. Remember the **auxiliary lines** we talked about in the beginning? Now you need them, because the "deep C" is too low to find room on the other five lines.

Note-Analysis

Name: C

Position: Sits on auxiliary line 1

Colour: Red

Level 8 | Max. Score: 4045

8.



Sifu

110bpm

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

9 10 11 12 13 14

15 16 17 18 19 20 21

22 23 24 25 26

1 2



Tip: It is not easy to play the "deep C", because you must cover all the fingerholes properly!
Practice this in front of a mirror to observe your finger positions.





Graf Vlady (Earl Vlady)

70bpm

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

9 10 11 12 13 14

1 2

15 16 17 18 19



Tip: Entries facilitate effective practice. Use a pen or, in an e-book, a stylus pen, the mouse or your index finger on the touch screen to mark difficult areas!





Oratio's Dream

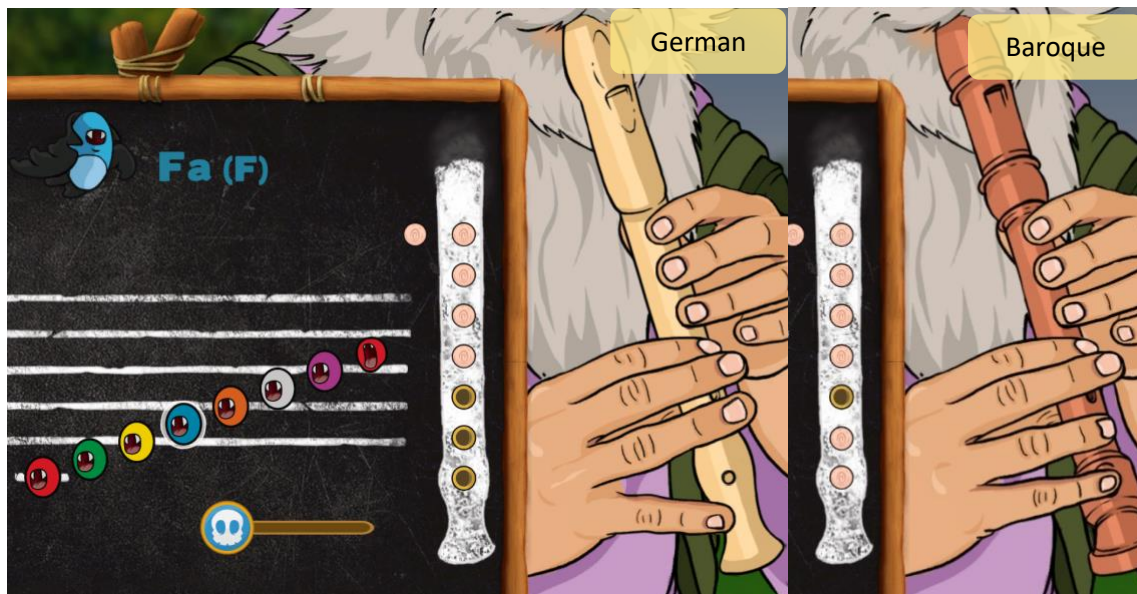


Tip: The background music and the technical possibilities of our apps allow you to learn autodidactically thereby encouraging your creativity. To additionally train your teamwork and communication skills, practice together with your friends. That's also a lot of fun!



The New Note – F (Level 9)

On this page you will learn the **last note** you need to **play the C major scale**! The note "F" is not easy to play, because the **finger position differs** depending on the recorder. But you are such a good player that you will master this challenge! With the **German fingering** you only need to place the index finger of your right hand on the fourth fingerhole. With the **Baroque fingering** you must **cover all fingerholes except the fifth**. This means you lift the middle finger of your right hand.



If you are no longer sure how to tell whether you have a recorder with German or Baroque fingering, read the **explanation at the beginning of the book**.

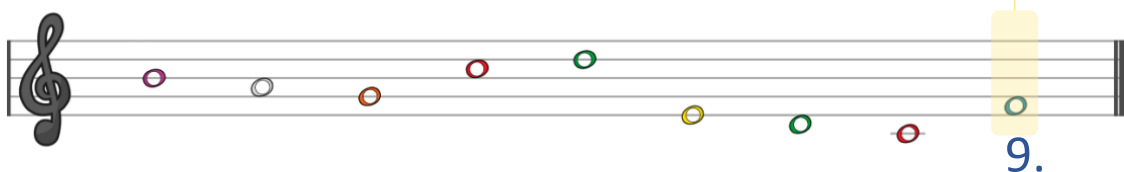
Note-Analysis

Name: F

Position: Sits between lines 1 and 2

Colour: Blue

Level 9 | Max. Score: 5349





Hänschen Klein (Little Hans)

120bpm

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27



Fun Fact: In the German synchronized version of 2001: *A Space Odyssey*, the HAL 9000 computer sings "Hänschen klein" (Franz Wiedemann, 1821-1882) while it is deactivated!





Oh! Susanna

100bpm



Tip: Count along silently as you listen and read along at the same time. Many songs are written in 4/4 time. So count "one, two, three, four"! If you want to halve a beat count "one-and-two-and-three-and-four". This way you feel the 4/4 time in quavers.



Twinkle Twinkle

85bpm

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24



Tip: Concentrate on the **essentials first** when reading music and don't get discouraged if you find it difficult! Have another look at the descriptions regarding notation and note analysis!





Congratulations

You are now a real Flute Master!

Continue your adventure by learning new pieces of music and notes with the [Flute Master App](#). And if you want to play on your recorder like a superstar, you'll find well-known and **current songs** from all over the world on our [YouTube channel](#), available to you **for free**. From the Beatles to Billie Eilish, everyone can find their favourite songs here and soon you will be able to play your them on your recorder.

Have fun making music!

Let's Classplash, learn music!





The Note Values

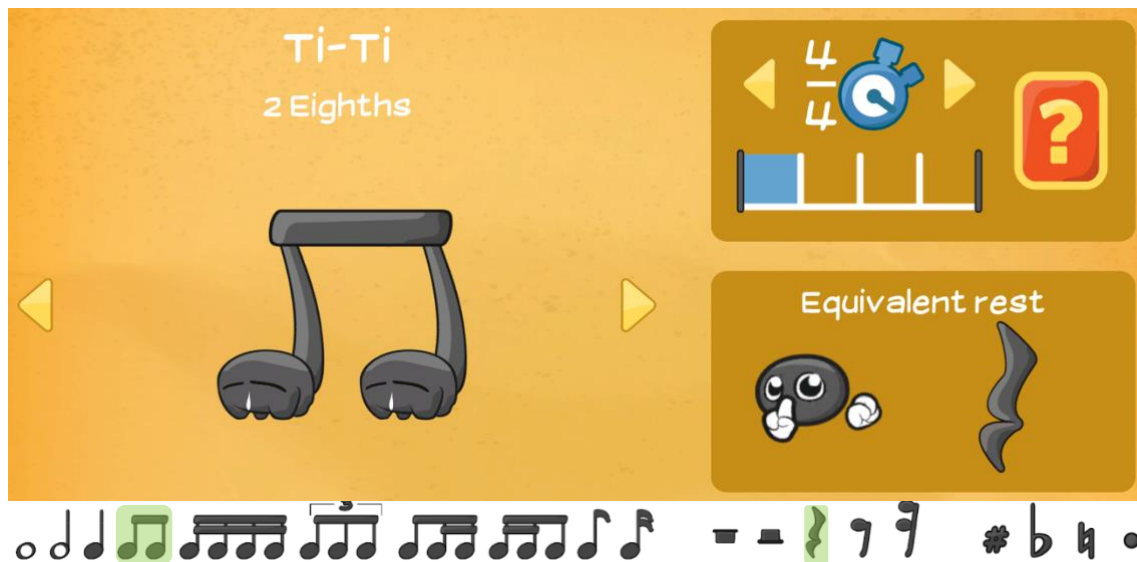
A Half Note



1 "Half Note" (in the world of music: "Ta-ah") is **as long as 2 quarter notes** together. By the way, in the app you can listen to the note values by pressing on single notes. This way you can also compare individual note values and will find: the half note has twice the length, so 2 beats instead of 1 beat!

Visually, the half note resembles the quarter note, but with a **hollow head**. The "Half Rest" is a **rectangle** that **rests on a note line**. Don't you think it looks like a hat? You can find out more about it in [this video](#).

Two Quavers



Here you see two “Quavers” (in the world of music: Ti-ti). Quavers are **often connected with a bar**. Since each quaver has **half the duration of a quarter note**, the 2 quavers together take as much time as 1 quarter note.

If you now change the time signature from 4/4 to 6/8, 2 quavers fill 2 of 6 basic beats. The quaver represents a basic beat, and this beat appears 6 times per bar. Would you like to test this? Then download our App [Cornelius Composer](#) for free. Here you can **easily switch between the time signatures** and experiment **with different beats and rhythms**.



Whole Note

Ta-ah-ah-ah
whole

4/4

Equivalent rest

We have talked about it so often now and here it is at last: the “**Whole Note**”. Have you seen it in the music tree? The whole note is the **longest single note used** in music today; the queen of all notes. 1 whole note is **worth 4 quarter notes or 2 half notes**.

Although the whole note is so long, it **has no "note neck"** and therefore looks smaller than the others. Just like the half note, the note head of the whole note is **hollow**, i.e. not filled. The rests of the whole note and half note are also very similar. However, the “**Whole Rest**” **hangs down from a note line**, while the half rest sits on it.

Tip: You can learn even **more about note values** in our **App Rhythmic Village**. Download it here for free: <https://rhythmicvillage.app.link/download>





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