

THE DESCANT RECORDER

TAKING CARE OF A RECORDER

Most people who learn the recorder begin by buying one of the cheaper models. Some are excellent value for the money, and you can use them for years if you take care of them.

1. Be careful not to drop your recorder.
2. The knife-edge and the air-passage are rather delicate. Your recorder will be much safer if you get a cloth case or a hard box to hold it.
3. If any part gets blocked up, use something soft to clear it out. A feather for the air-passage and a soft mop for the other parts will be safest.
4. A plastic recorder should be disinfected occasionally. Never lend your recorder to anyone else to blow without disinfecting it, both before and after use.
5. The head may become loose. If your recorder has a waxed-thread binding at the joint, scratch it gently with a finger-nail; or, if the head is very loose, either rewind the binding or add a few turns of thread. If your recorder has cork joints, a very small amount of joint-grease will make them easier to use.
6. When you take your recorder apart, take the head off with a gentle twisting motion.
7. Never chew or suck a recorder.
8. Clean the air-passage occasionally.

Wooden recorders need to be cared for in a slightly different way.

9. Keep the inside of a wooden recorder as dry as possible. Try to play as dryly as you can, and disinfect only when necessary. Dry out the inside with a soft mop or a small piece of rag every time you finish playing.
10. Don't leave a wooden recorder in a very hot place—it may crack.
11. When you first get a wooden recorder, play it only for a little while each day for a week or so. Then oil it inside with a very little almond or raw linseed oil. When the oil has dried out, you can play it as much as you like. Oil it again about every three months.

BEFORE YOU PLAY

1. See that the holes are in line with the "window".
2. See that the head is well down on the shoulders.
3. Put your first finger gently in the whistle-slot and blow sharply once, to clear out any obstruction. This should make no sound at all.

PLAYING

Always cover the holes with the pads of your fingers, not with the tips (see photograph). Keep your fingers fairly straight.

Each finger has its own hole to cover, and no other.

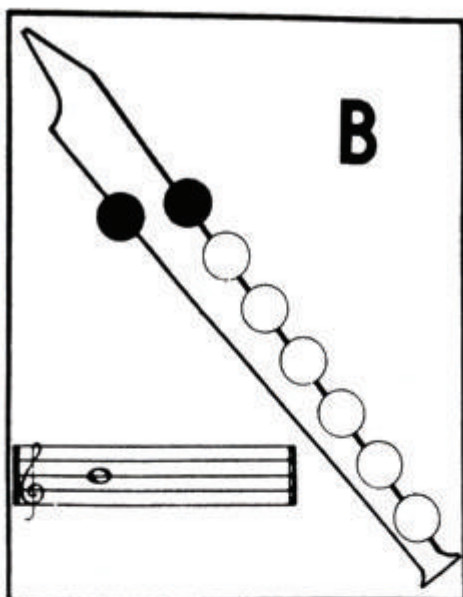
The left-hand little finger is not used.

THE FIRST NOTE

1. Put your **LEFT** thumb on the hole at the back. Feel, but don't look, to find out whether the hole is covered.
2. Put your **LEFT** first finger on the top hole. Feel, don't look.
3. Use your breath just strongly enough to make a clear note, not more.

The letter name of the note you have just played is B.

Now go on to Exercise 1.



The Note B

Any note, whatever its shape or size, which has its body on the middle line of the staff, is a B. The middle line of the staff is marked by a thick black line for the first few pages.

The black notes (♩) are one beat long, the others (♪) are two beats long. If you think of the black notes as one pennyworth of music, the others are twopennyworth.

Play each note separately—stop playing for a very little time between notes.

Exercise

NOTE B

The figures $\frac{4}{4}$ are called the time-signature, because they show the time in which the music should be played.

The top figure 4 shows the number of beats in a bar, and the bottom figure shows their length.

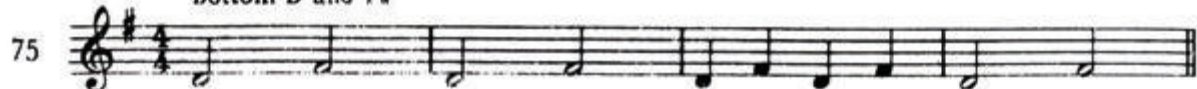
Each bar is marked off by a bar-line (|).

The double-bar line (||) shows the end of a tune, or of an important part of a tune.

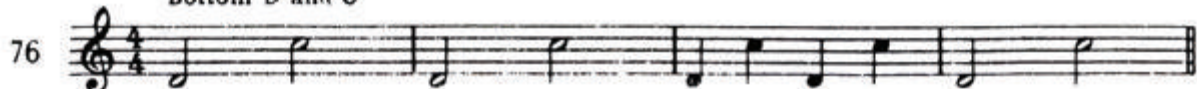
Bottom D



Bottom D and F#



Bottom D and C'



Bottom D and D'



In order to tell lower and upper notes apart when we are using their letter-names, we add one dash to the higher note, like this: —D'

Lower D	...	...	...	D
Upper D	...	...	...	D'
Lower C	...	...	...	C
Upper C	...	...	...	C'

D and other notes



More tunes to sing and play

CLEMENTINE



In a cav - ern, In a can - yon, Ex-ca - va - ting for a
Oh my dar - ling, Oh my dar - ling, Oh my dar - ling Clem-en -



mine, Dwelt a mi - ner, for - ty nin - er, And his daugh - ter, Clem-en-tine.
-tine, Thou art lost and gone for - ev - er, Dread-ful sor - ry, Clem-en-tine.