

Play It Today!



Introducing Nuvo WindStars!

WindStars is a band program for Elementary Schools using DOOD, TOOT, ¡SAX, Clarinéo and ¡Flute.

The "First Steps" series provides the foundation for playing all Nuvo instruments. When you feel confident with the basics you can download the WindStars Music Books and explore the WindStars website for more tunes. You will find music in many styles such as jazz, pop, rock, reggae and of course traditional tunes. We will continue to add new tunes and please feel free to contact us with suggestions.

One of the great things about Nuvo instruments is that they are all in the key of C (concert pitch) which means you can share music across instruments and if you want to add piano, guitar and even Orff music, it's easy to do.

Why not perform at your school or in the local community? If you'd like to share your WindStars or individual performance videos, please contact us through the Nuvo website and we will happily post them on our YouTube channel.

To access the free WindStars music, go to www.nuvo-windstars.com and search the relevant instrument. You can listen to demonstration tracks as well as download backing tracks and sheet music. There is also a free iPad app that has playback options as well as interactive fingering charts for Nuvo instruments.

For more information, please visit <u>www.nuvo-instrumental.com</u> and <u>www.nuvo-windstars.com</u>





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Clarinéo - First Steps Book

The Clarinéo is fantastic fun to play and a great way to introduce younger players to the joy of playing the clarinet and other woodwind instruments. This First Steps book will guide you through the basics of playing the instruments and reading music notation. It doesn't matter if you have never read music, or even picked up an instrument before. This book is written to be used either on your own, or as part of a larger group or class.

Teacher Tips

You don't have to be a woodwind specialist to have fun teaching Nuvo instruments. Check out our new WindStars curriculum which is coming soon, where you can find games and activities to engage classes of all sizes regardless of your own musical ability.

Nuvo Superstars & First Steps Certificate

Look out for the 9 stars as you progress through the book, you can color them in when you reach them to show that you have learnt everything up to that point. You can also color the stars below to track your progress.



When you have finished the book, and can play all the tunes perfectly, you can print out the "First Steps Complete" certificate, fill in your name and put it on your wall!

Backing Tracks and Videos

Throughout the book you will find backing track and video icons as shown.



VIDEO 01 - Introducing the Clarinéo



TRACK 01 - E Tune by Graham Lyons

If you are viewing the PDF while online, you can click the icons to access the track or video. You can also download all the tracks and videos and manage them from your computer when not online.

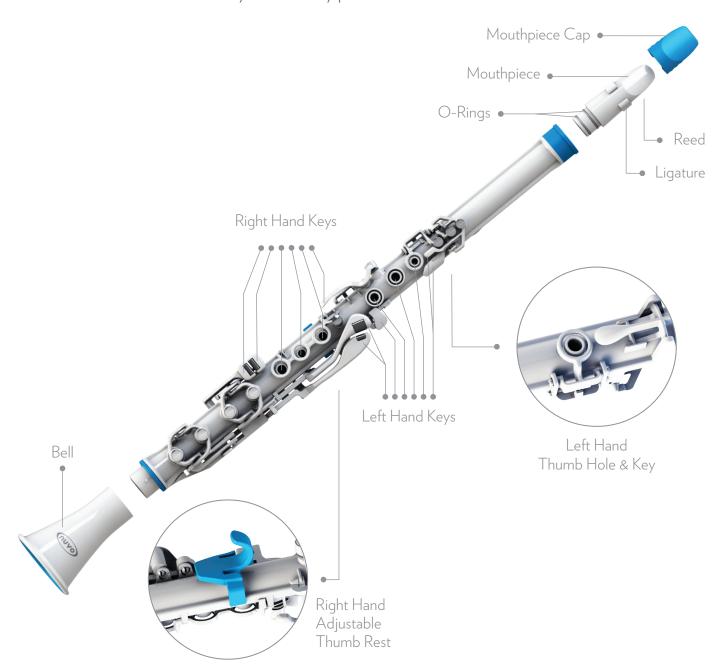


Introducing the Clarinéo



VIDEO 01 - Introducing the Clarinéo

Your Clarinéo comes in three easy to assembly parts.



The Reeds and Mouthpiece



VIDEO 02 - Changing the reed on your Clarinéo

The reed on your Clarinéo is very important, this is the part that vibrates and makes the sound. Your Clarinéo comes with 3 synthetic reeds numbered 1, 1½ and 2. The reed marked 1 is the softest and should be the easiest reed to create an initial sound. The 1½ reed is a little harder and offers more resistance when it is played, and the number 2 reed is harder still. We recommend starting with the number 1 or 1½ reed, and try moving to the 2 reed as you progress through the book. There is also a cane reed provided. If you want to buy more cane reeds, be sure to ask for Eb clarinet reeds, as the more common Bb clarinet reeds will not fit the mouthpiece. If you look after them, your reeds should last a long time. Biting or chewing your reeds will damage them, and they will not work properly. Check the tip of your reed from time to time to make sure it is flat, and always replace the mouthpiece cap carefully when you have finished playing.

Removing the Reed

You should not have to remove the reed very often, as it is ok to leave it on the mouthpiece all the time. When you do need to change the reed simply lift the ligature as shown then carefully slide the reed away from the mouthpiece. Try not to touch the tip of the reed.



Assembling Your Reed and Mouthpiece

There is a location rib on the reed which fits into the groove on the mouthpiece; slide the reed into the groove and then snap shut the ligature as shown. This should enable you to position the reed perfectly every time. The tip of the reed should now be lined up with the tip of the mouthpiece.



When attaching or removing your Clarinéo mouthpiece look at the rubber O-rings which seal the mouthpiece with the body. Make sure they are in their slots before attaching the mouthpiece to the body.



Holding the Clarinéo

The hand positions for playing the Clarinéo are a similar to a recorder with your left hand at the top and your right hand at the bottom. Your left hand will cover the top 3 holes and your right hand the bottom 3, with your little fingers playing the remaining keys. Your right hand thumb goes under the thumb hook on the back of the Clarinéo and your left thumb will cover the hole on the back, and play the register key.



Good Posture

It is important to stand upright and bring your instrument up to your mouth. This will help you to produce good notes. Remember not to bend forward or dip your head towards your instrument.



Bad



Good

Playing Your Clarinéo



VIDEO 03 - Playing your Clarinéo

Make sure your mouthpiece is positioned so the reed is on the bottom. Start by resting your top teeth on the top or "beak" of the mouthpiece about 1cm from the tip (Image 1), and close your mouth around the mouthpiece (Image 2). Your bottom lip will cover your lower teeth and make a cushion for the reed to rest on. Now take a breath and without puffing your cheeks out, try to blow a note on the Clarinéo, don't let your cheeks puff out. You need not think about your fingers yet, just think about blowing! You can experiment with a little less and a little more mouthpiece in your mouth and listen to how it changes the sound.



Image 1



Image 2

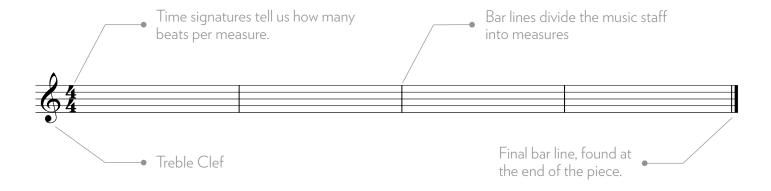
Not Making a Sound?

If you find you can't make a sound, you might be biting down on the reed too hard, try to loosen your mouth a little around the mouthpiece. If you are making a lot of squeaking noises, you might have too much of the mouthpiece in your mouth, try sliding the mouthpiece out a little and have another go. Don't worry if you can't always do it the first time!

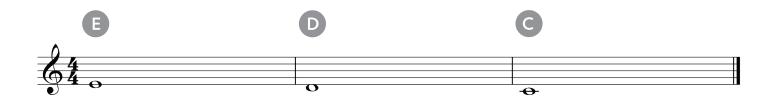


Introducing the Staff or Stave

Musical notation is written out using 5 lines called the staff, or stave. The notes are placed either in the spaces between the lines, or on the lines depending on which notes they are.

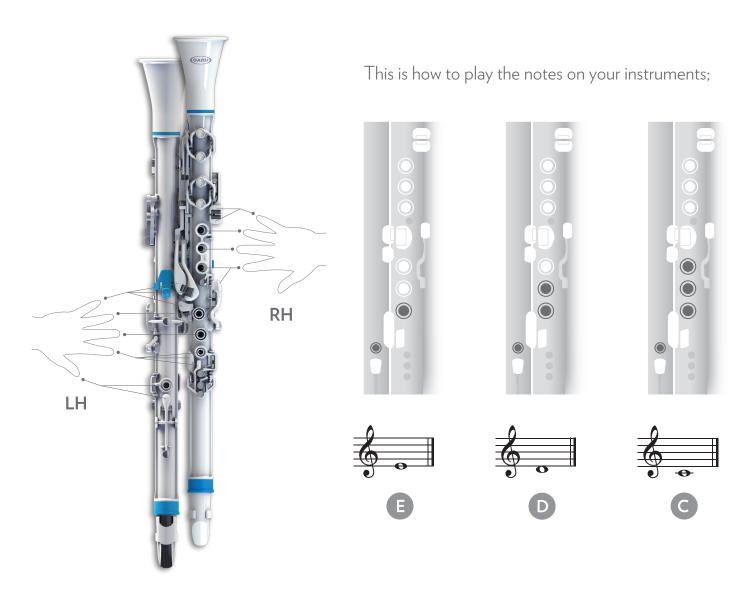


The first 3 notes we will learn on the Clarinéo are called E, D and C, this is what they look like on the staff. Notice how the E is on the bottom line, the D sits under the bottom line and the C is lower still, with it's own little line running through it.



Let's Play Some Notes: E, D and C

The first notes we are going to learn on the Clarinéo are E, D and C. Remember how to hold your instrument - left hand thumb covering the hole on the back, right hand thumb under the thumb hook on the back.



Now have a go at playing the 3 notes, and try moving between them. Don't forget that your thumb should be covering the back hole for all 3 notes. Try playing in front of a mirror so you can see what your fingers are doing. If you're not getting a sound you may not be covering over the holes fully, you don't need to press hard, just hard enough so that no air can escape.

^{*} Teachers, check out our "Nuvo Top Tips for Teachers" for some activity ideas *

Starting Notes with Your Tongue

On the Clarinéo we should start some of the notes using our tongue. This is called articulation. Play the note E and then without stopping the air in your throat touch the tip of the reed with your tongue to stop the sound. When you take it away the sound will carry on. Now play the note D, try to touch the reed, as if you are saying "Tu, tu, tu,". Try to make all the notes the same length. This is called tonguing!

Note Lengths

Music notes don't just tell us what notes to play, but also how long to hold the note on for.



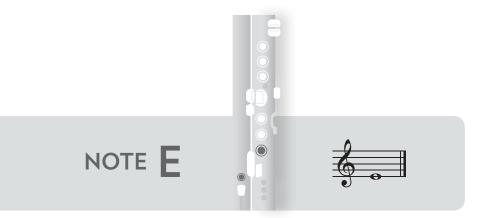


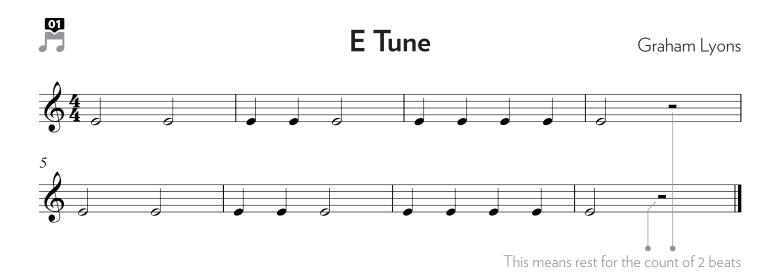




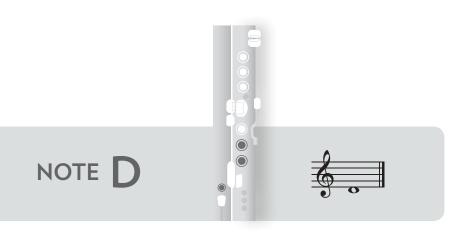
Let's Play Some Tunes

The first tune we are going to play only uses one note – E. First try to clap out the rhythm of the tune, then have a listen to the demonstration track. Try clapping along to the tune while looking at the music.

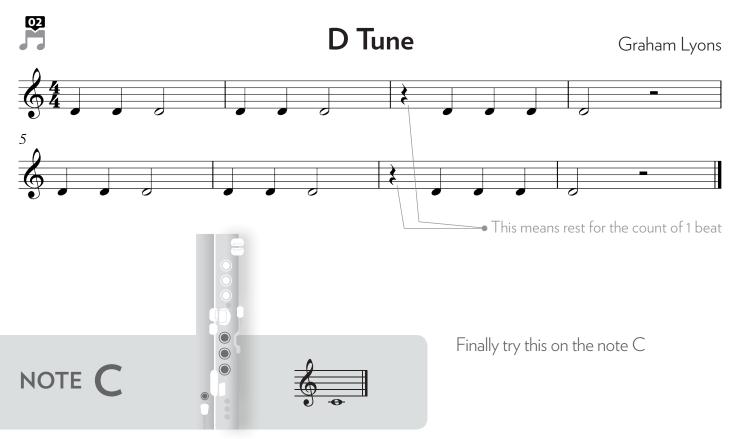


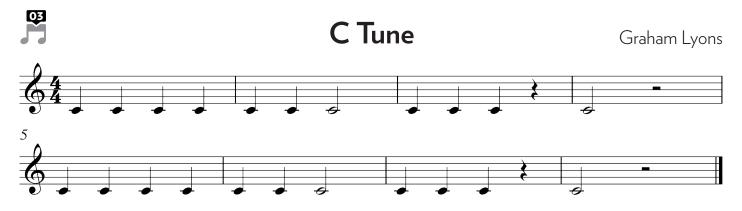


Now try and play the tune on your instrument, follow the music as you play, and don't forget to tongue the notes.



Now try the same with this tune which uses just the note D, remember to try clapping the rhythm of the tune first.





(nuvo) Clarinéo

If we want the music to sound more interesting we need to use more than one note in a tune, try playing these 3 tunes that use E, D and C, look for a repeat sign at the end of each piece, this means you repeat the tune again from the start.



Rock CD has repeat signs near the start and at the end, we will play the music between the signs twice, we will REPEAT the music.





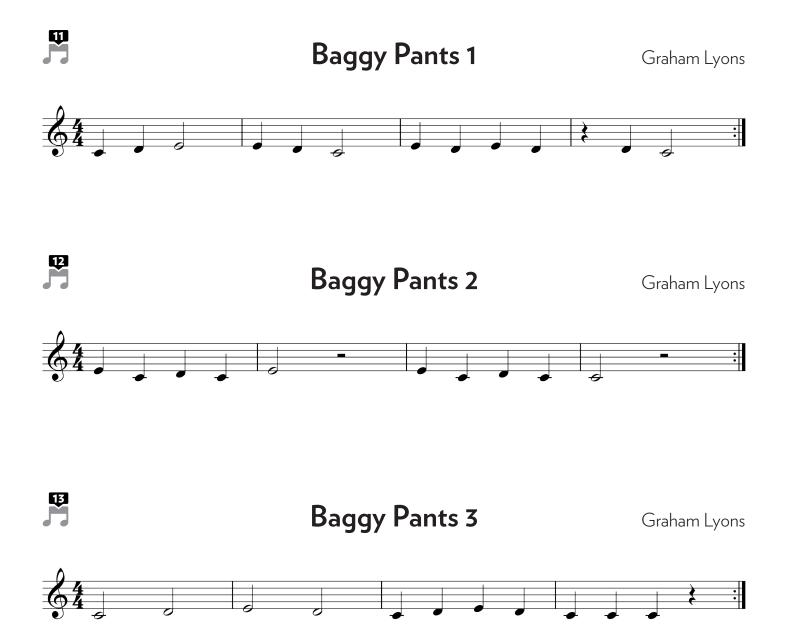






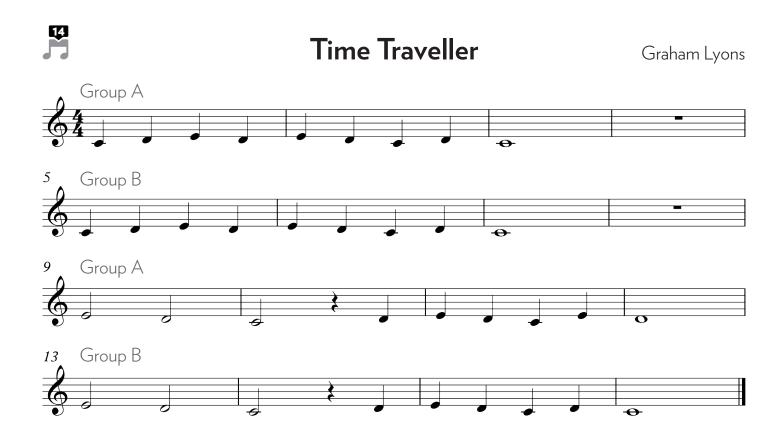


More E, D, C Tunes





When you play "Time Traveller" first listen to the backing track, then try to play with the music. In the classroom you could split into Group A and Group B, taking a line each.







Playing Duets

Music is usually played by more than one instrument at a time. A duet is a piece written for two players. Sometimes the two players have similar sounding lines, other times they have very different lines, but they always sound great when played together.





Introducing Eighth Notes

When we need notes that are shorter than quarter notes, we can use eighth notes. Each eight note is worth half a quarter note.



See if you can spot the eighth notes in Donkeys, clap the rhythm, listen to the track, then try to play it. As always remember to tongue all the notes clearly.









Eighth Note Workout!

Bruce Hunnisett





Disco Duet

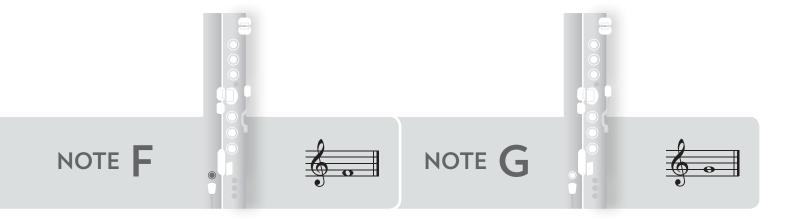
Paul Barker







Let's Learn 2 More Notes: F and G



Merrily uses the new note G, see if you can see where the new G note appears.





Slurs



If there are notes in a tune which should not be tongued, we connect the notes with a slur; this means those notes should be played in one breath, moving your fingers smoothly to change the notes. Remember to keep your air moving from one note to the next, so no gaps can be heard between the notes.

Try playing Merrily again, this time with some of the notes slurred, try to play those passages in one breath, with no gaps.



Little Hans uses both new notes, G and F. Find the new note F in the music before you try playing it.





Introducing the Dotted Half Note



A dot after a note adds half the value of the original note, so the dotted half note will be worth 3 beats.

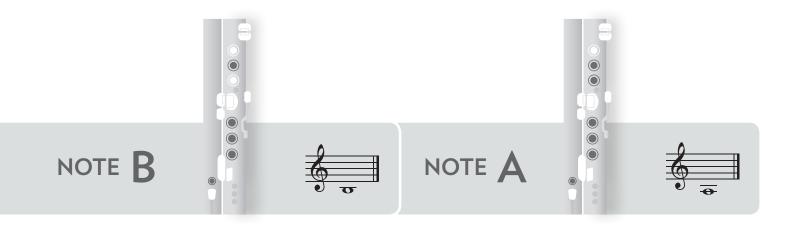
Look out for the dotted half notes in this tune.





Let's Learn 2 More Notes: B and A

We are going to need our right hand for these notes, keep your right thumb under the thumb hook and try playing the B and A. Look in a mirror if you can, to see what your fingers are doing. Be sure to cover over the holes fully or the notes won't sound correct.





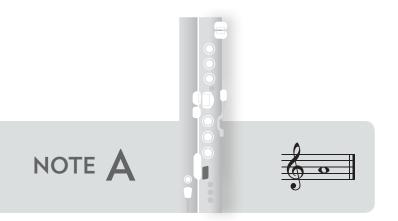




Skip to My Lou has the new note B, see if you can spot it before you try and play it.

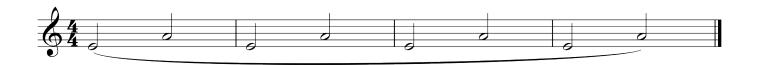


Let's Learn High A



Now try playing this high A, it's an "OCTAVE" higher than the A we've already learnt, an octave spans 8 notes.

Try to roll your finger up on to the A key, rather than jump up to it. Try slurring smoothly from an E to an A without letting any Gs pop out! Like this.....





(nuvo) Clarinéo

Here's another duet to try playing with a friend. Part 1 has the new high A in it. Take it in turns to try the different parts.





Introducing the Dotted Quarter Note

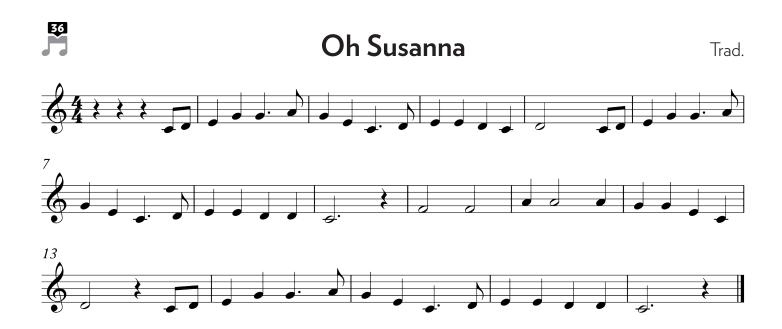


The dotted quarter note is worth 1½ beats. It is often paired with an eighth note, to make 2 complete beats as in Michael Row the Boat Ashore







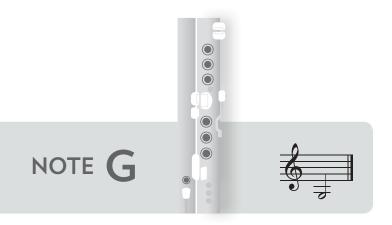






Let's Learn Low G

To play low G we need to cover all 3 holes at the top and all three holes at the bottom. Look in a mirror or ask a friend to check your finger are covering all the holes.

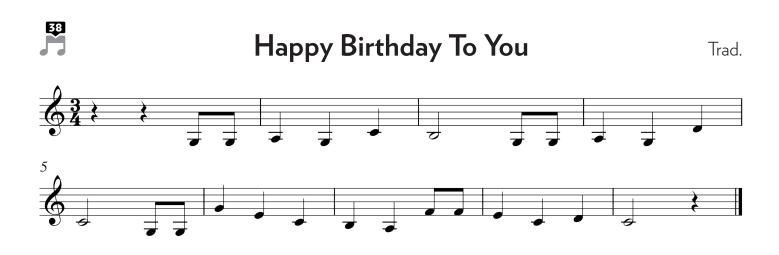


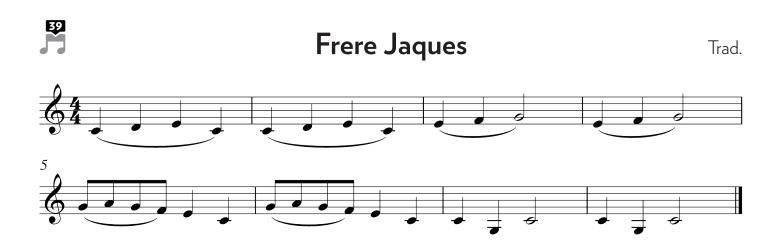
Now try playing Hot Cross Buns again, but this time using the right hand notes B, A and G





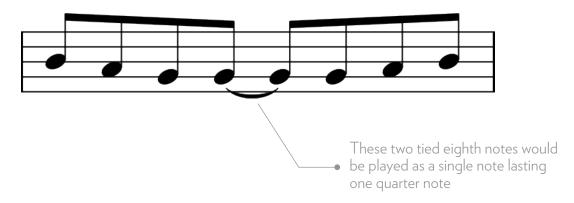
Look at the Time signature of Happy Birthday, notice how the top number is a 3, this tells us there are only 3 beats in each bar.





Ties

A tie is a curved line connecting two notes of the same pitch. The two notes are added or "tied" together and played as a single note.

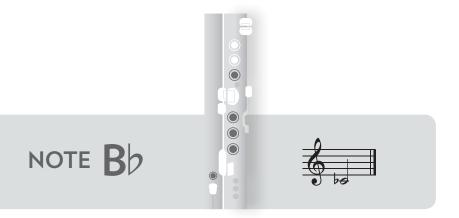


Look out for the ties in the next tune.



The Flat Sign

A flat sign can be placed in front of any note, it lowers the note by a half-step.

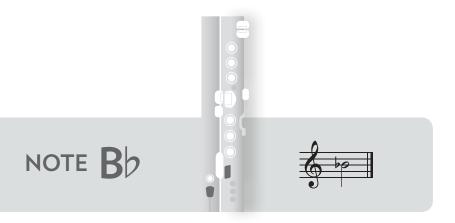


The next note we are learning is a Bb. It sounds slightly lower than a normal B. Try playing this note, it should sound half way between A and B. Now play B, A and Bb and listen to the difference between the notes.

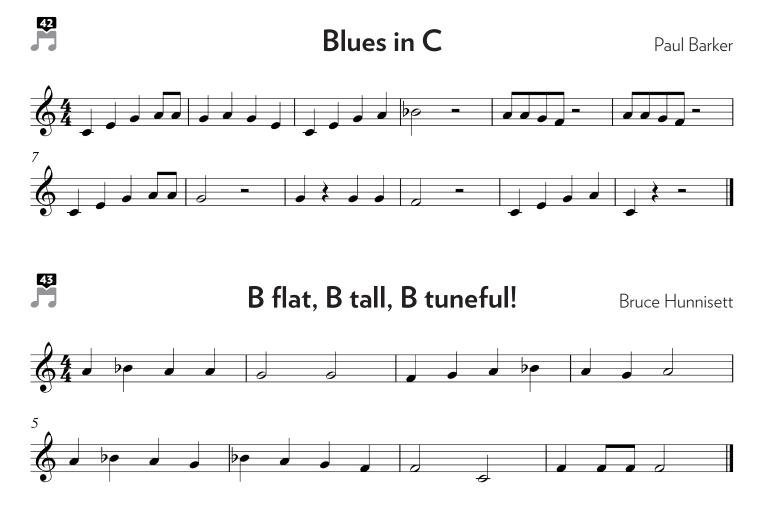




We can also play a higher sounding version of the Bb



This is played similar to a high A, but we take our thumb off the hole at the back, and instead use it to press the register key.





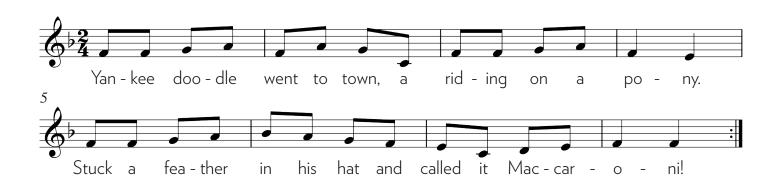
Key Signatures

If you look at the start of Yankee Doodle Dandy, you will notice a flat sign on the B line at the start of every line. This is called the key signature, and it means all the B notes in the tune should be played as Bb.



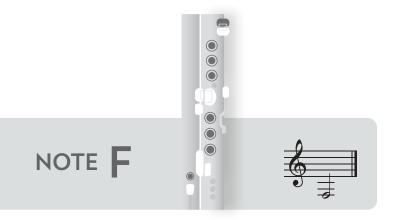
Yankee Doodle Dandy

Trad.



Let's Learn Low F

Low F is one of the lowest notes on the Clarinéo, to practice the F, try playing a G, and then put your right little finger down on the F key. Make sure you don't move your other fingers or the F won't work properly.





Lets practice some of the notes we've learnt by playing the scale below, it goes from a low F all the way up to a high F. In music we call this a major scale, these types of scale are the foundation for all kinds of music.

The F Major Scale



Look at the key signature – remember to the play Bbs. Try playing the scale both slurred and tongued, it's a great way to warm up and get your fingers moving.











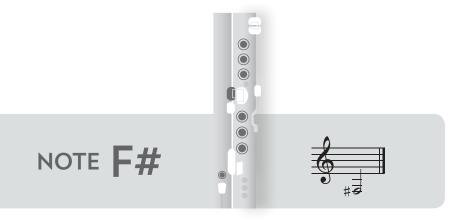
The Sharp Sign

Similar to the flat sign, the sharp sign can be placed in front of any note, it raises the note by a half-step.





Let's Learn Low F#



Low F# uses both little fingers, and is quite a hard note to play at first. Make sure your other fingers don't move off the holes.



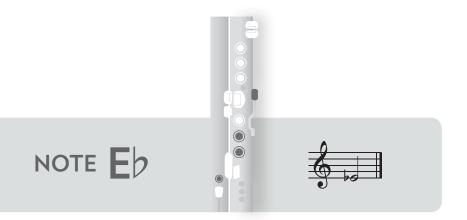
Little Finger Twist

Bruce Hunnisett



(nuvo) Clarinéo

To play the next tune, we need to learn how to play another flat note. This time it's Eb.





(nuvo) Clarinéo

We now know enough notes to learn another 2 scales. First let's play the Bb major scale. This has Bb and Eb in it, look carefully at the start and notice how the key signature has 2 flat signs, the first is Bb, and the second is Eb.

The Bb MajorScale



We can also play the G major scale which contains the $F^{\#}$.

The G Major Scale



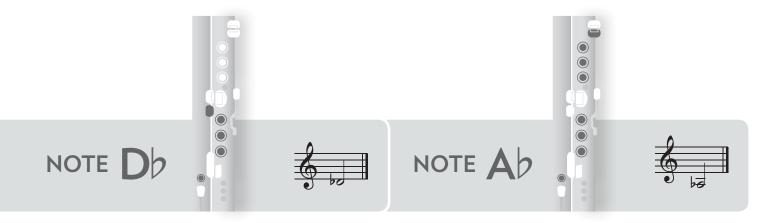
Try to memorize the 3 scales we have played, and play them as a warm up each time you start to practice.

Check the key signature of the next pieces carefully before you play them.



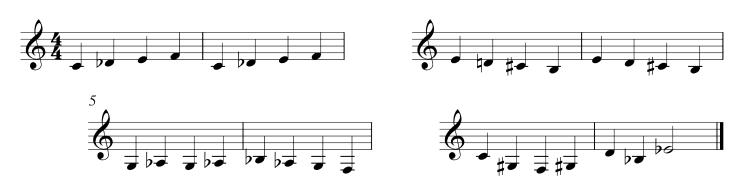


To play the final tune in the book, we need to learn two more flat notes – Db and Ab. To play these notes we need to use our little fingers again, but this time on different keys!



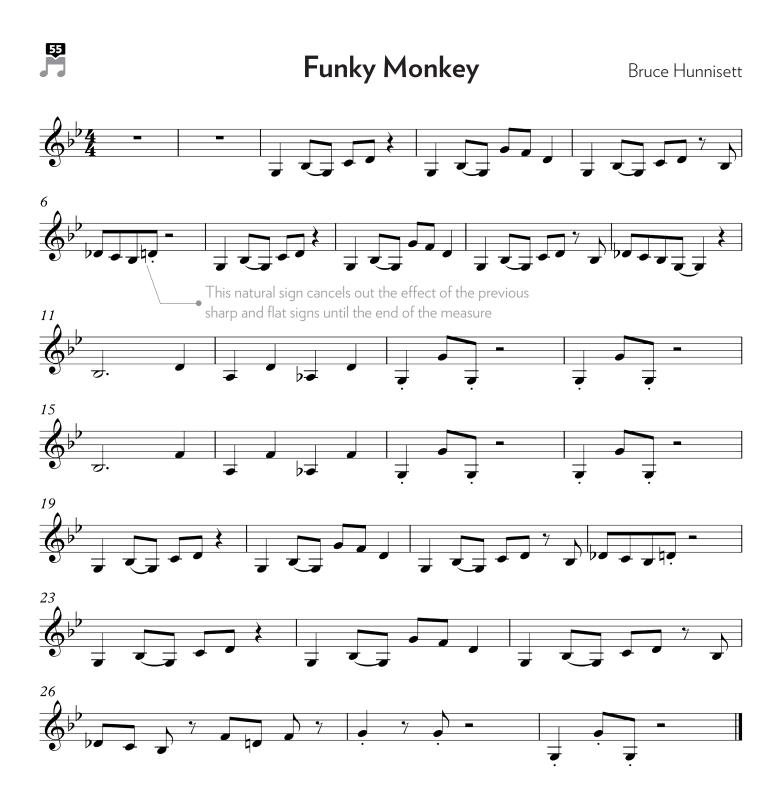
Because Db is halfway between D and C, it can also be called a $C^{\#}$. Likewise Ab is halfway between A and B and can therefore also be called a $B^{\#}$. Look at the exercise below, it will help you get used to playing and recognizing the different sharp and flat notes.

$Ab/G^{\#}$ and $Db/C^{\#}$ Exercise



(nuvo) Clarinéo

In Funky Monkey, look out for all the flats, and also for "natural" signs, this is a sign that cancels out a sharp or flat and returns the note to its "natural" sound. The first natural sign appears in bar 6, and is labelled.







Congratulations!

Congratulations! You have completed all the music in the book. You now know all the main notes in the low register of the Clarinéo, and all the notes in the keys of F major, Bb major and G major. It is possible to play even more notes and the fingering chart at the back of this book shows you how to do that.

If you want to learn even more great tunes, you can move on to one of the Windstars books for Clarinéo, where you can find a whole range of pieces spanning all different genres of music.

Visit our website for more details about this, and other NUVO products.

www.nuvo-instrumental.com





CONGRATULATIONS!

You have completed the Clarinéo First Steps Book

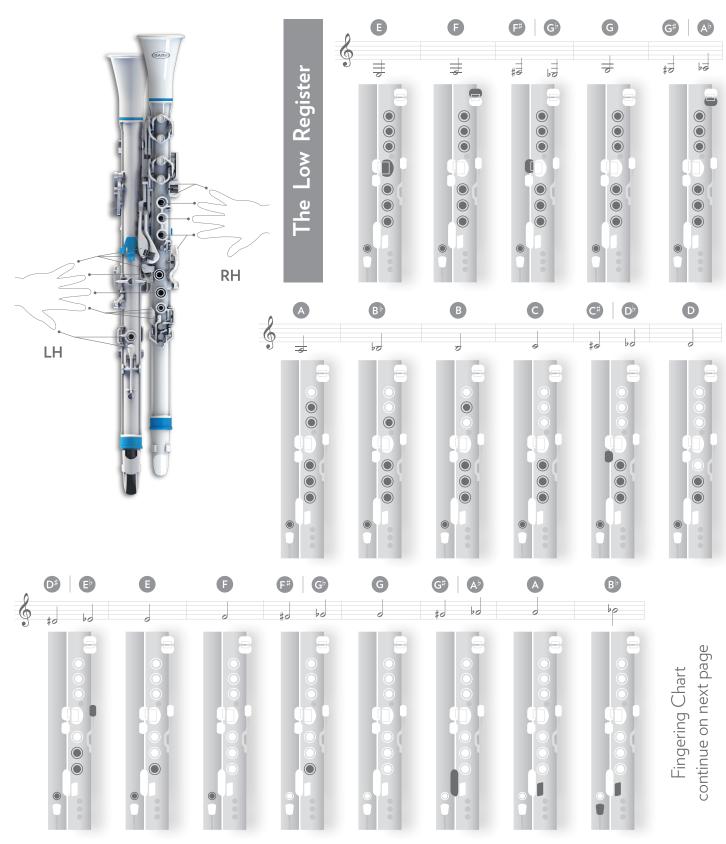
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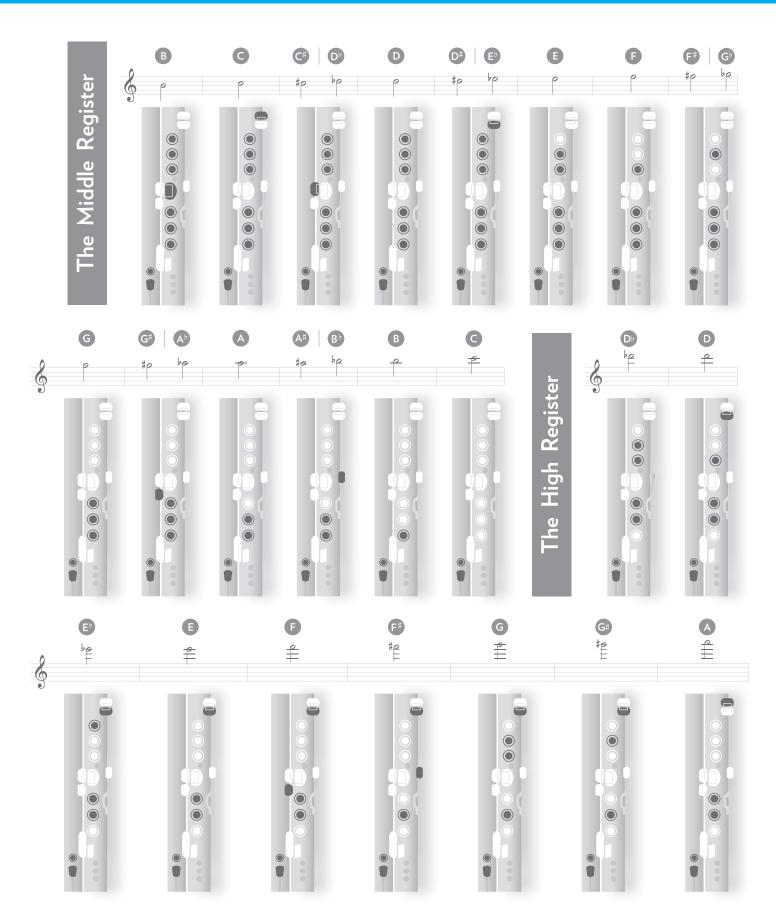






Clarinéo Fingering Chart







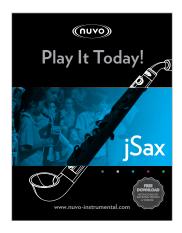
Play It Today!

BY

Bruce Hunnisett, Paul Barker, Graham Lyons, Dr. Cassandra Eisenreich

The Nuvo Play It Today Series have been prepared and edited by 4 widely experienced music educators to provide a basis for playing or teaching with Nuvo instruments. Introducing basic technique and enough notes to play simple fun tunes solo or in a group. This is the perfect method for developing the necessary skills to further explore the wealth of music available to download from the WindStars website.











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