



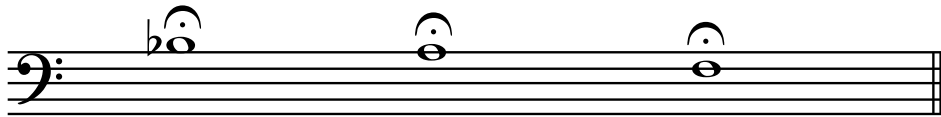
Instrument Tuning Guide

Bassoon

Basic Tuning Rules

1. Warm up using long tones before tuning
2. Always use sufficient air support and play at a mezzo forte dynamic level.
3. Do not use vibrato or try to manipulate the tuning note—play it straight.
4. Before completing the worksheet, tune to the pitches shown below. Adjust the reed if pitch is sharp or flat.

Your Tuning Notes



Your Tuning Mechanism

None. Do not attempt to adjust the pitch of the bassoon by moving the bocal in or out of the instrument because the vent hole must be positioned so that the pad covers it. Similar to the oboe and english horn the bassoon tuning is dependent on a properly adjusted reed and a good embouchure. Bocals of slightly different lengths can be used to raise or lower the pitch of the instrument. The higher the bocal number, the lower the pitch.

How to Adjust a Pitch While Playing

- Flat: increase amount of reed in mouth, increase embouchure pressure. (Damping: Always raises pitch)
- Sharp: decrease amount of reed in mouth, decrease embouchure pressure.
- Alternate fingerings

Reed Concepts: *Decrease the volume of the reed by changing wire. It acts as fulcrum.*

Volume (cubic)

Increase – Lower Pitch

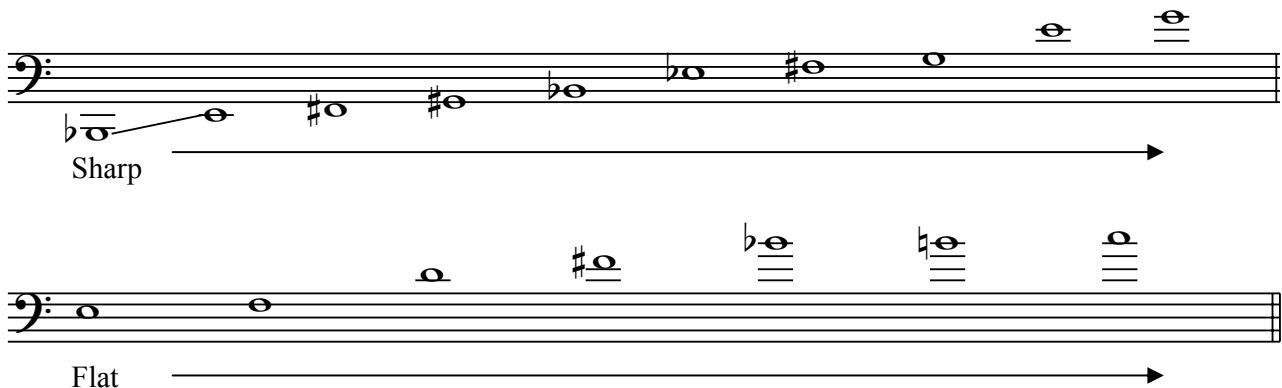
Decrease – Higher Pitch

Vibrancy

Increase – lower pitch

Decrease – Higher Pitch

Common “Out of Tune” Notes





Pitch Tendency Worksheet

Bassoon

Name _____ Today's Date _____ Due Date _____

Ensemble _____ Grade _____

Instrument Make and Model _____

** Keep this in your Band Binders. (Do not throw away) You will need it next year in band.*

Directions

Step 1: Tune your instrument carefully using the Pitch Tendency Guide on the previous page.

Step 2: Close your eyes before playing each note below. Hold it until the pitch is steady.

Step 3: Open your eyes. Do not adjust the pitch! Write down the pitch tendency on the chart below

**Write how many cents sharp (+) or flat (-) you were on each note. Example: -10 or +10*

Chromatic Scale

Four staves of musical notation for a chromatic scale in bass clef. Each staff contains eight notes with accidentals and a blank line below for recording pitch tendency.

Pitch Tendencies using "Terraced Dynamics"

A single staff of musical notation for a terraced dynamics exercise in bass clef. It consists of four groups of four notes each, with dynamic markings *p*, *mp*, *mf*, *f* and a blank line below for recording pitch tendency.