

Soaking

Reed

The Embouchure:

Forming the embouchure is a critical process, which should be approached carefully.

1. Slightly draw the lips toward the center of the mouth as if you are about to whistle. This will roll some of the red of the lips over the top and bottom teeth. Be careful not to roll too much of the lips over the teeth, as this results in a hard, jaw supported embouchure. Practice this process a few times before going on to the next step.
2. Place the reed in the mouth far enough so that the first wire is about 1/8 of an inch from the top lip.
3. Place the lips on the reed so that there is a slight -but equal-amount of pressure from all directions, much like a drawstring closing a cloth bag. The bassoon embouchure is a soft, lip supported embouchure, which requires very little pressure.



Making a crow on the bocal:

Place the reed on the end of the bocal and form the embouchure. Now blow through the reed to get a crow on the bocal. If the reed is working you should get a C on the bocal. Practice whole notes to get a steady sound on the bassoon. You are aiming for a C each time. If the pitch is too low try more support from lower lip and faster air. If it is too high try

relaxing the pressure around the reed. Once you have been able to get a good sound on the reed and bocal you should be ready to make some more sounds on the bassoon!



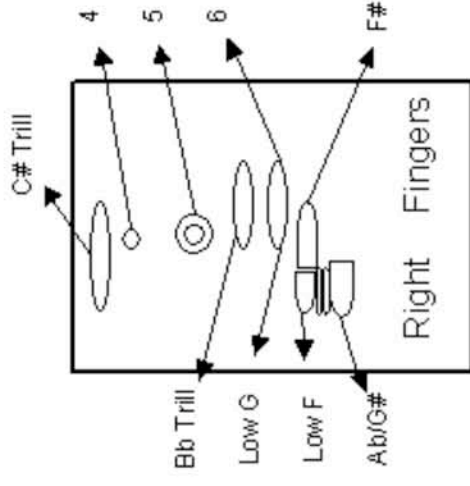
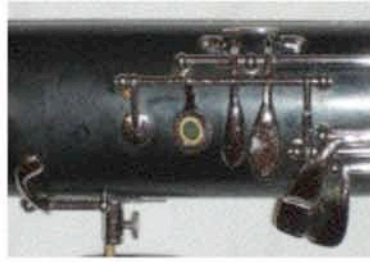
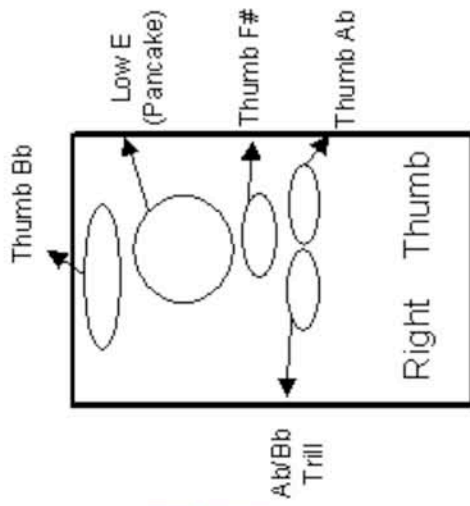
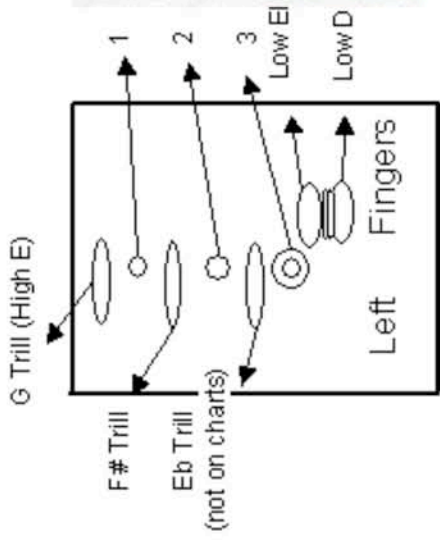
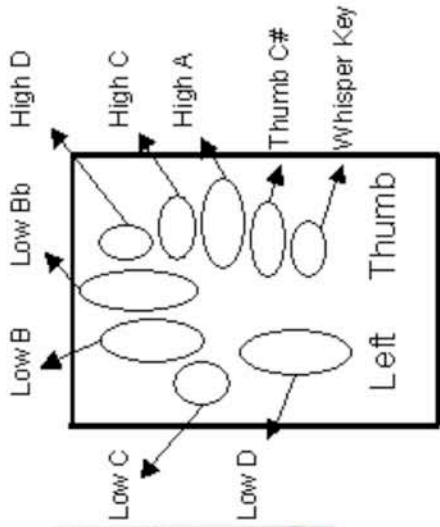
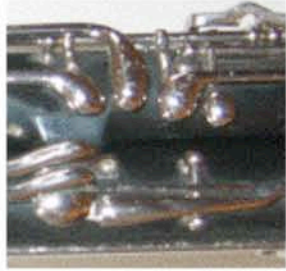
Tonguing:

Tonguing on the bassoon is not a difficult task. You will not need to concern yourself too much with this. Don't think about it and you will probably be fine. You will need to remember the following concepts:

1. Tip to tip: The tip of the tongue touches the tip of the reed.
2. Tongue moves in an up and down motion
3. The tongue needs to move as little as possible.

Tonguing as on any wind instrument relies on constant air support. Speed of tongue will come with practice, as you need to increase the speed less tongue movement is necessary,

Diagram of the Bassoon Fingering System



Transferring from the Clarinet:

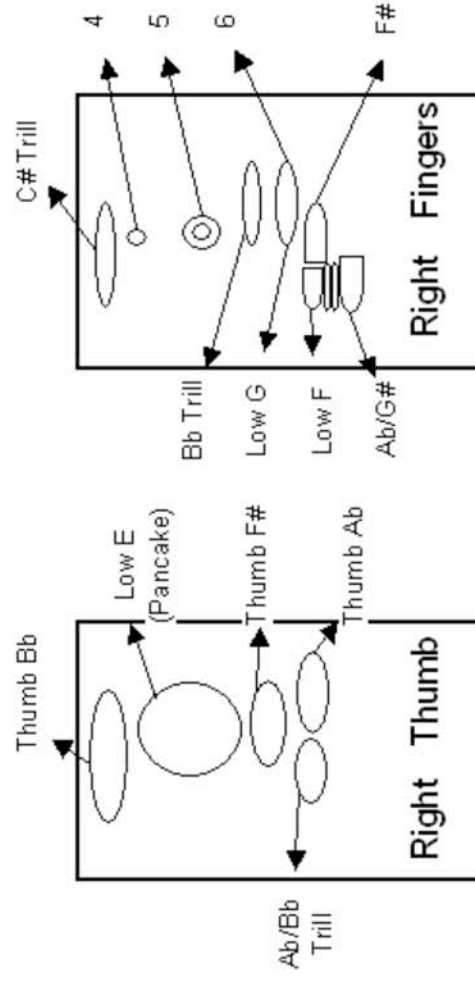
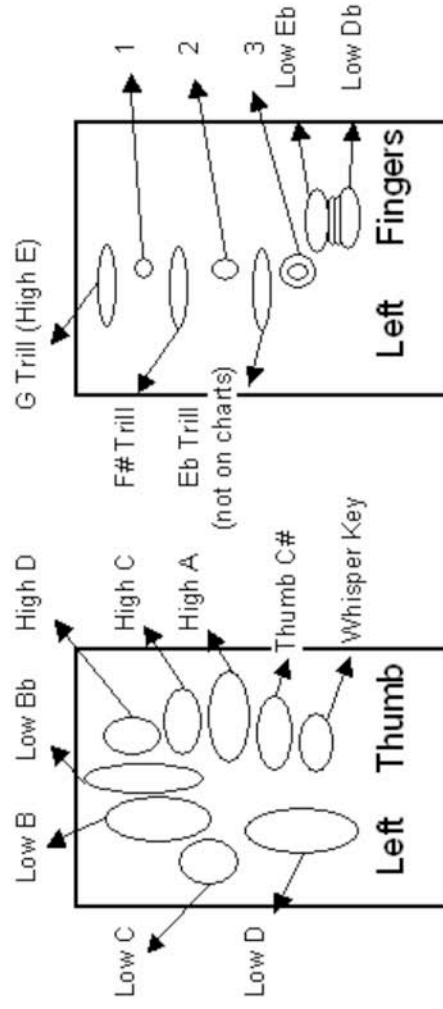
Many of the fingerings encountered while playing the bassoon are the same as on the clarinet. The only difference is that the bassoon is read in the Bass Clef. This makes transferring a student from the clarinet to the bassoon a good transfer. A student will need to become familiar with reading the Bass Clef.

Looking at the fingering system of the bassoon vs. the clarinet you will notice the same basic six-finger set-up. The major differences occur when comparing the use of the thumb.

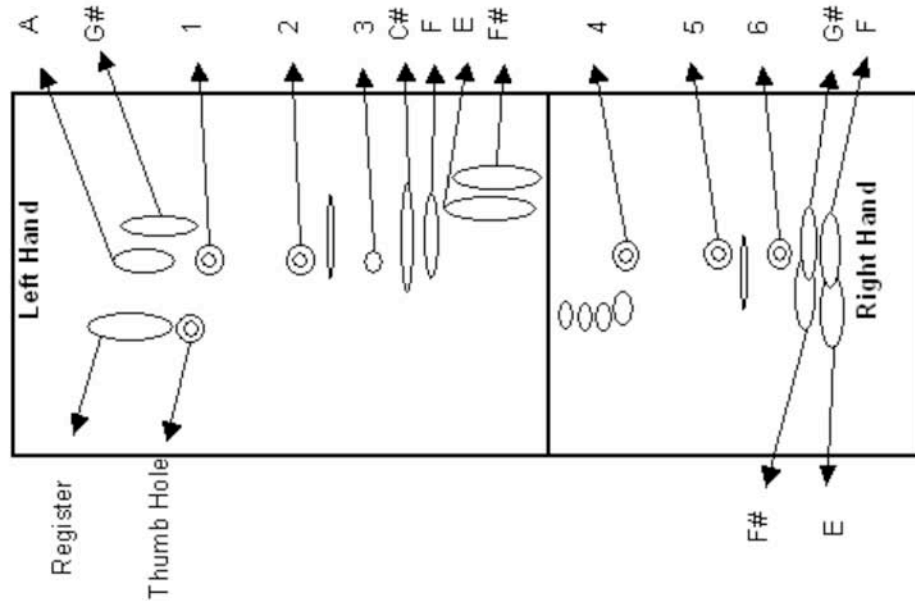
Most beginning books start clarinet on the E, which will make a good starting point on the bassoon as well. Here are some exercises that will make the switch easier.



Bassoon Fingering System



Clarinet Fingering System



Notice the similarities of the finger placement on both the clarinet and bassoon. Fingers 1 - 6 are in the same position.

First Three Notes: E, D, and C

Bassoon Fingering:

E			
D			
C			

Clarinet Fingering:

Clarinet			
Bassoon			

Notice that the fingering is basically the same on both instruments. The thumb is down on both instruments as well as the first index finger.

*These exercises cannot be played simultaneously but will help you with both reading in Bass Clef and familiarize you with the similar fingering patterns.

Now Try D:

Clarinete Bassoon

How about C:

Clarinete Bassoon

Mix them up:

Clarinete Bassoon

Now try a familiar song:
Hot Cross Buns

Clarinet

Bassoon

The image shows a musical score for two instruments: Clarinet and Bassoon. The Clarinet part is written on a treble clef staff, and the Bassoon part is written on a bass clef staff. Both parts are in 2/4 time. The melody for both instruments is identical, starting with a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note C5. This is followed by a half note D5, a half note E5, and a half note F5. The final note is a quarter note G5. The notes are color-coded: G (purple), A (pink), B (green), C (blue), D (orange), E (red), and F (yellow).

Now the next note F is also the same on the bassoon and clarinet with just your thumb down.

The image shows fingerings for the note F on Clarinet and Bassoon. It is divided into two main sections: Clarinet and Bassoon. Each section has a small musical staff showing the note F. Below each staff are diagrams for the Left Hand and Right Hand. The Clarinet section shows the Left Hand with the thumb down and fingers 1-3 on keys, and the Right Hand with fingers 1-3 on keys. The Bassoon section shows the Left Hand with the thumb down and fingers 1-3 on keys, and the Right Hand with fingers 1-3 on keys.


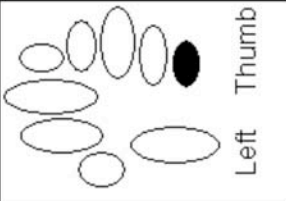
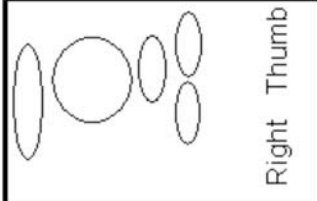

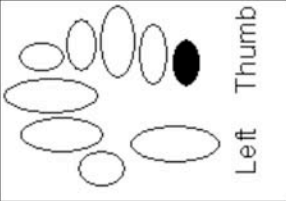
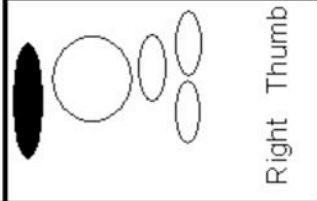
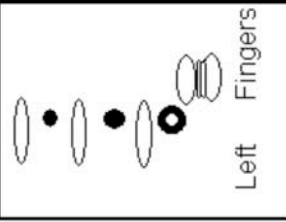
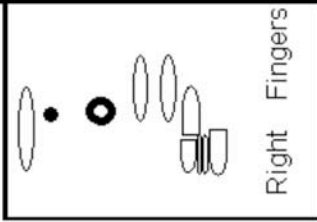
Clarinet

Bassoon


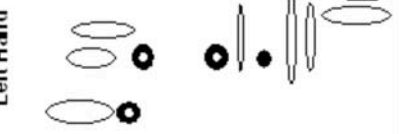


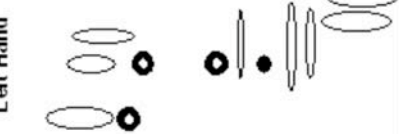
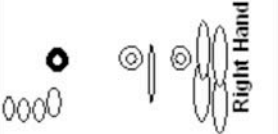
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The next two notes B and Bb are different on each of these instruments:
 The clarinet has an interval of a whole step between hands. The bassoon has an interval of a half step between hands.

Bassoon:

 <p>B</p>	 <p>Left Thumb</p>	 <p>Right Thumb</p>
 <p>Bb/A#</p>	 <p>Left Thumb</p>	 <p>Right Thumb</p>
	 <p>Left Fingers</p>	 <p>Right Fingers</p>

Clarinet:

 <p>B</p>	 <p>Left Hand</p>	 <p>Right Hand</p>
 <p>Bb</p>	 <p>Left Hand</p>	 <p>Right Hand</p>

Now practice the B and Bb on the bassoon: (remember they are not the same fingerings as the clarinet)

Bassoon

Bassoon

The next three notes are very similar. (notice the different use of the pinky for the low F)

Bassoon:

A		
G		
F		

Clarinet:

A		
G		
F		

Now try a few different exercises using these new notes:

Clarinnet

Bassoon

Bassoon


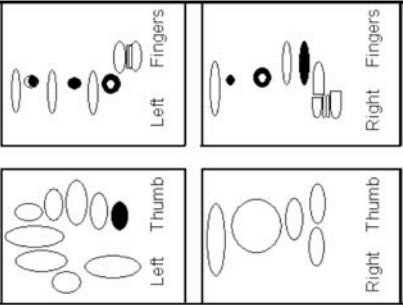

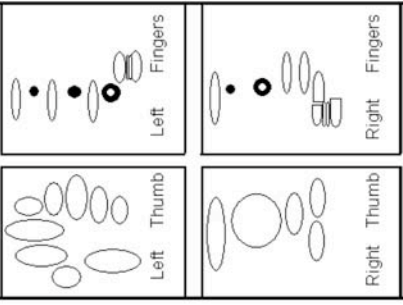

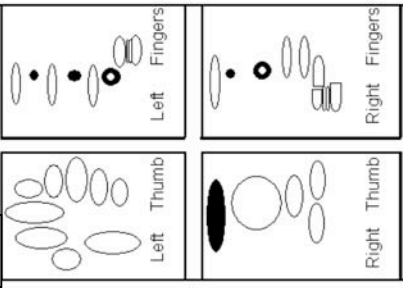

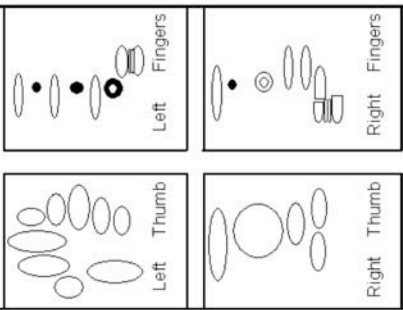

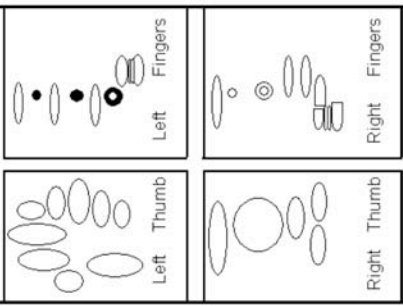

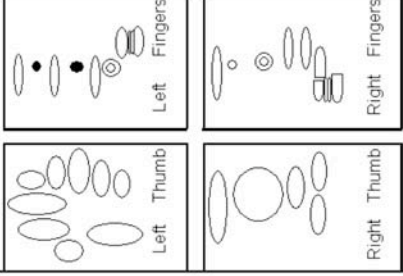
F Major Scale:

Bassoon

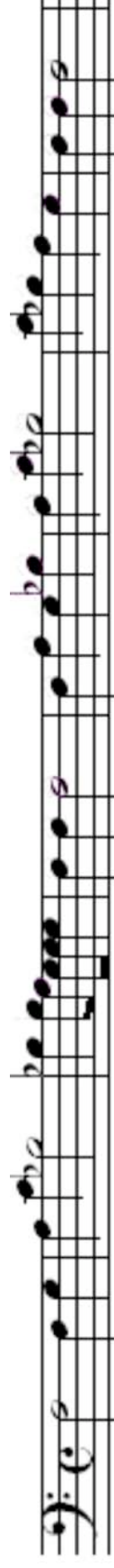
F in Thirds:

Bassoon

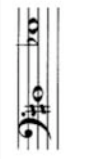
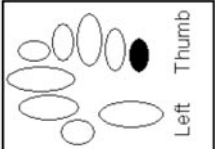
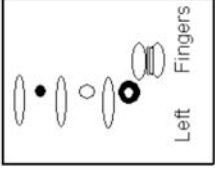
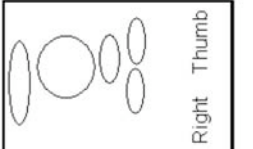
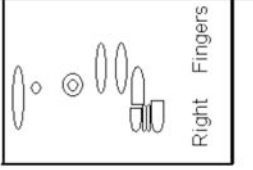
To get notes above the F they are played much like the lower octave with a few differences:

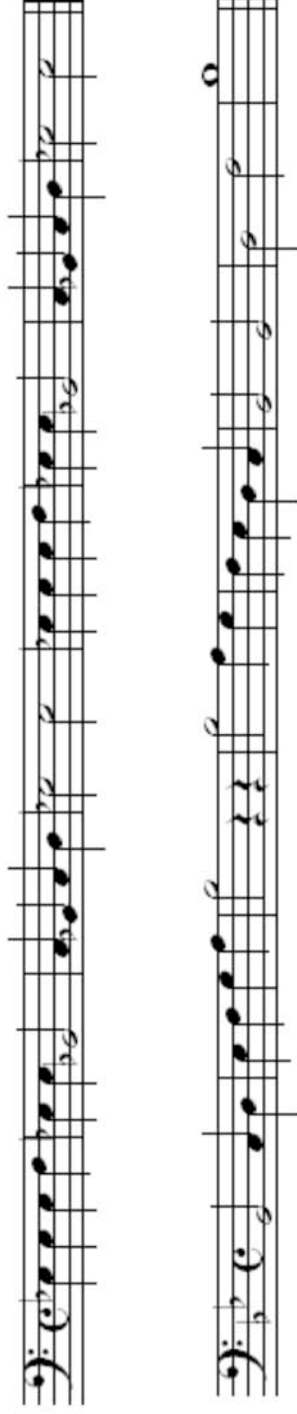
<p>G</p>  	<p>A</p>  	<p>Bb A#</p>  	<p>B</p>  	<p>C</p>  	<p>D</p>  
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You should notice that these fingerings are almost the same except for the half whole on the G and the lifting up of the left thumb from the whisper key. These fingerings are much like the low octave of the clarinet but remember the B and Bb fingerings are different.

The next note that is very important to know is Eb. (This fingering does not relate to the clarinet.)

Eb D#	
 Left Thumb	 Left Fingers
 Right Thumb	 Right Fingers



Low register of bassoon:

The left thumb holds the key to many of the lowest notes on the bassoon.

 Bb A#		
 B		
 C		
 C# Db		
 D		
 Eb D#		

 E		
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Try these exercises to learn the low register:

Now you are ready to try a 2-octave Bb scale:

The image shows a single staff of music in bass clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The scale is written in a single line, starting on a middle C (C4) and ascending two octaves to a Bb above the staff. The notes are: C4, C#4, D4, D#4, E4, F4, F#4, G4, G#4, A4, A#4, Bb4, Bb5, Bb6, Bb7. The notes are written as eighth notes with stems pointing up. The first two notes (C4 and C#4) have a '2' written below them, indicating a fingering of two fingers. The final note (Bb7) has a '1' written below it, indicating a fingering of one finger.

This is a good start for your switch to the bassoon you are well on your way to knowing many of the notes necessary to play the bassoon. At the end of the book there is a section on suggested method books for additional studies. Be sure to check the fingering chart and try to learn the entire chromatic scale on the bassoon.