

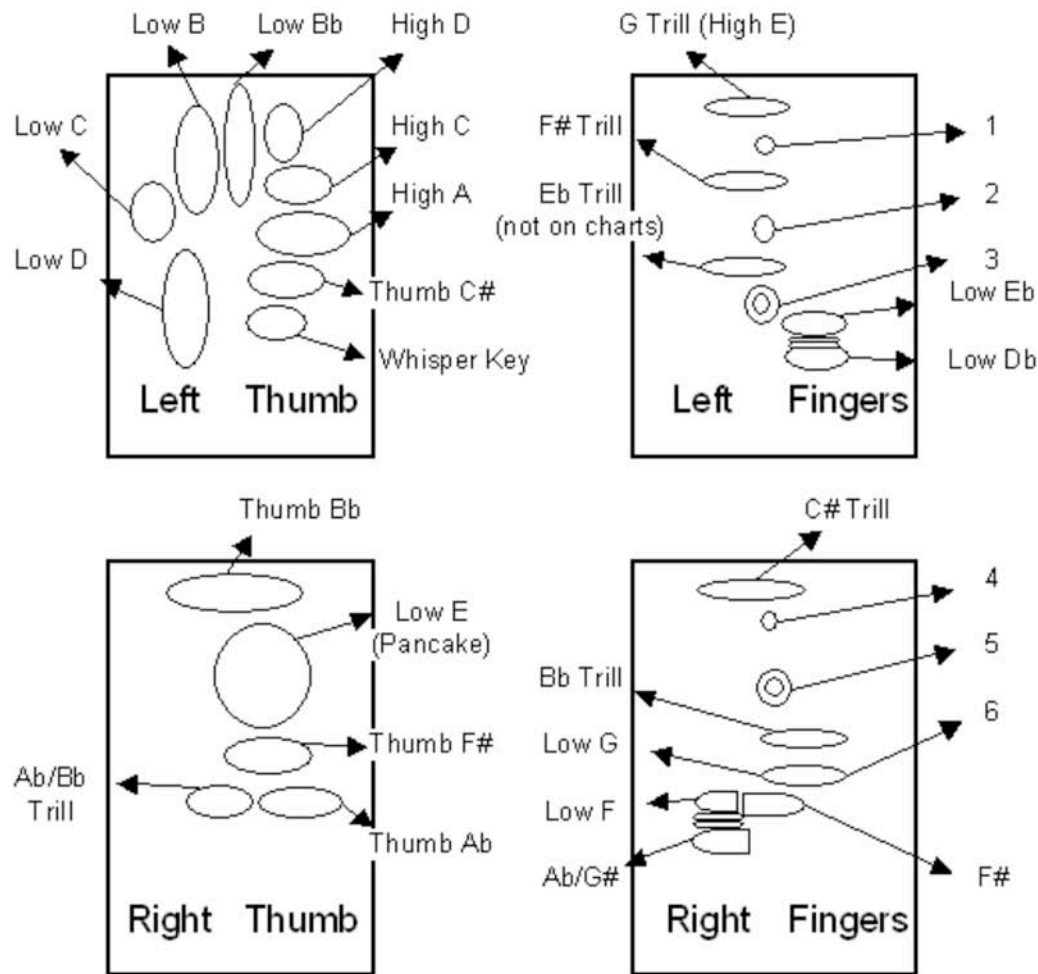
## **Transferring from the Saxophone:**

Many of the fingerings encountered while playing the bassoon are similar to those on the saxophone. Looking at the fingering system of the bassoon vs. the saxophone you will notice the same basic six-finger set-up. The major differences occur when comparing the use of the thumb. The embouchure will obviously be different but again the finger placement is similar.

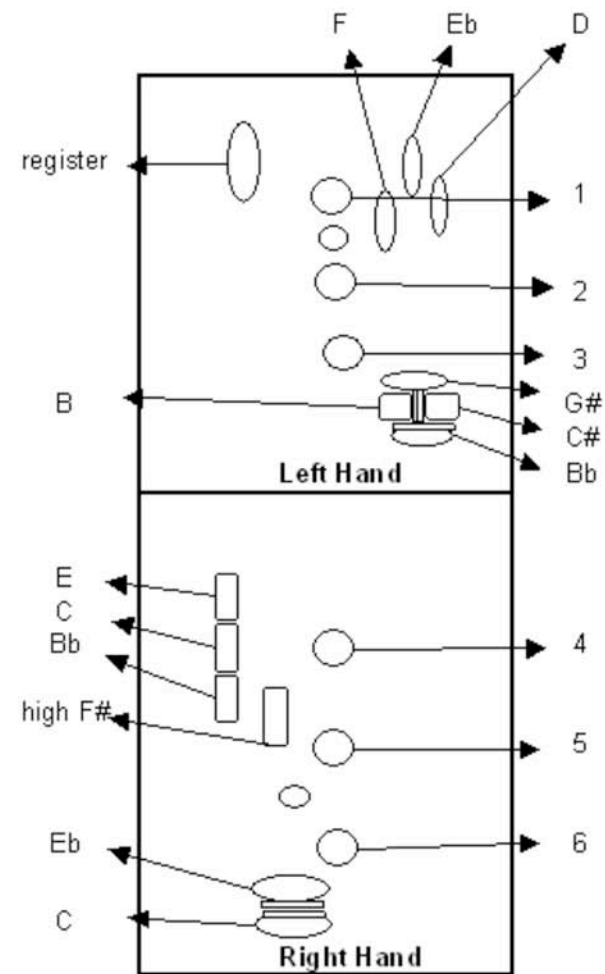
The best place to start comparing the two would be with the B on the saxophone and the E on the bassoon. They use basically the same fingering but do not read the same notes. (All of these exercises will work regardless of what saxophone you play soprano, alto, tenor, or baritone)



## Bassoon Fingering System



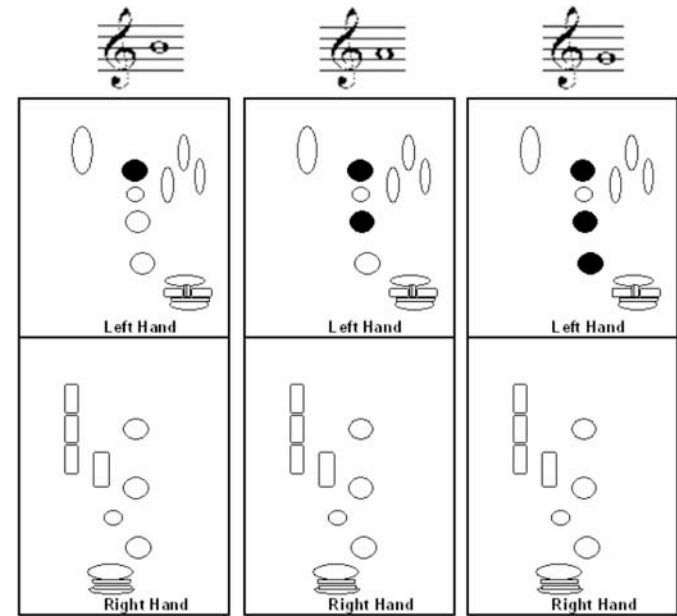
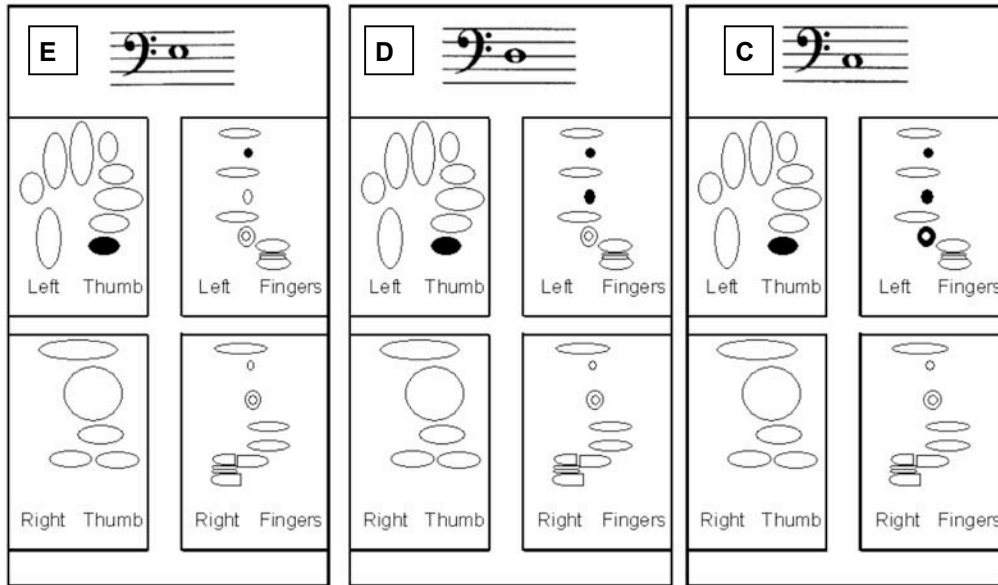
## Saxophone Fingering System



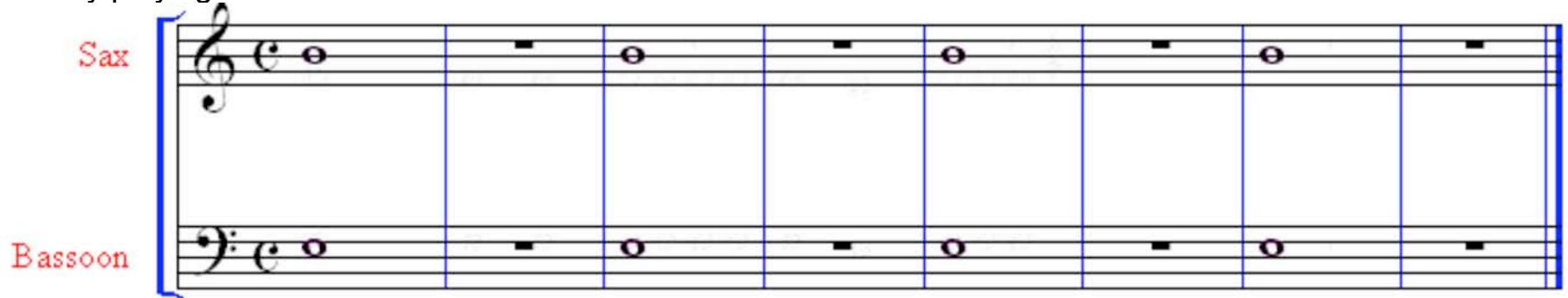
Notice the similarities of the finger placement on both the saxophone and bassoon. Fingers 1 - 6 are in the same position.

Bassoon First Three Notes: E, D, and C

Sax: B, A, and G



Now try playing the B on the bassoon:



Notice that the fingering is basically the same on both instruments. The first index finger is down on both instruments. The left thumb is added on the bassoon whisper key. \*These exercises are not to be played simultaneously. They are only used as a comparison.

Now try D: (same as A on the saxophone)

Musical notation for Saxophone and Bassoon. The Saxophone part is in the treble clef and the Bassoon part is in the bass clef. Both are in common time (C). The key signature has one flat (Bb). The notation shows a sequence of notes: D4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), D4 (quarter). The notes are represented by whole notes in the first two measures and quarter notes in the following six measures. The Saxophone part has a flat on the D note, and the Bassoon part has a flat on the D note.

How about C: (same as G on the saxophone)

Musical notation for Saxophone and Bassoon. The Saxophone part is in the treble clef and the Bassoon part is in the bass clef. Both are in common time (C). The key signature has one flat (Bb). The notation shows a sequence of notes: C4 (quarter), C4 (quarter), C4 (quarter), C4 (quarter), C4 (quarter), C4 (quarter), C4 (quarter), C4 (quarter). The notes are represented by whole notes in the first two measures and quarter notes in the following six measures. The Saxophone part has a flat on the C note, and the Bassoon part has a flat on the C note.

Mix them up:

Musical notation for Saxophone and Bassoon. The Saxophone part is in the treble clef and the Bassoon part is in the bass clef. Both are in common time (C). The key signature has one flat (Bb). The notation shows a sequence of notes: D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter), D4 (quarter). The notes are represented by whole notes in the first two measures and quarter notes in the following six measures. The Saxophone part has a flat on the D note and a flat on the C note, and the Bassoon part has a flat on the D note and a flat on the C note.

Now try a familiar song:  
Hot Cross Buns

Sax

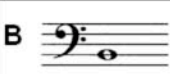
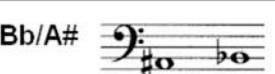


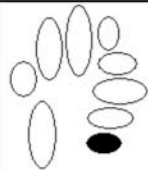
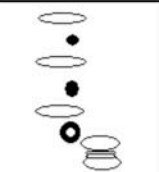
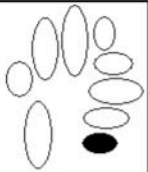
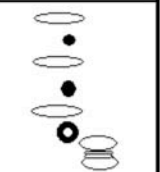
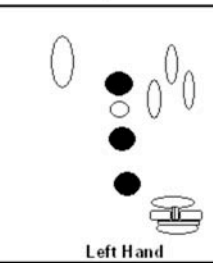
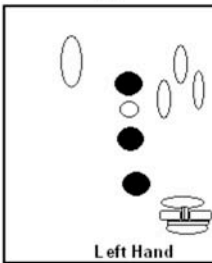
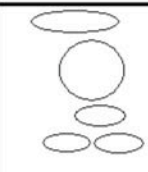
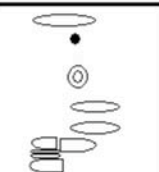
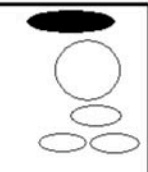
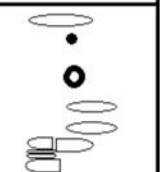
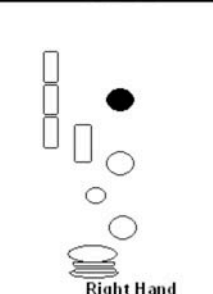
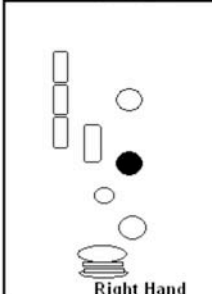
Bassoon

F is different on the bassoon but not too difficult. You just use your left thumb on the whisper key. This note does not relate to the saxophone.

<p>Left Thumb</p>	<p>Left Fingers</p>
<p>Right Thumb</p>	<p>Right Fingers</p>

Bassoon

The next two notes have similar fingering patterns but beware of the difference between hands on each instrument: The bassoon has a half step between hands, while the saxophone has a whole step. These fingerings will be different.

											
 Left Thumb	 Left Fingers	 Left Thumb	 Left Fingers	 Left Hand	 Left Hand	 Right Thumb	 Right Fingers	 Right Thumb	 Right Fingers	 Right Hand	 Right Hand

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

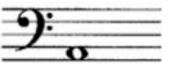
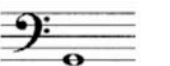
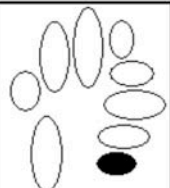
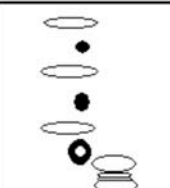
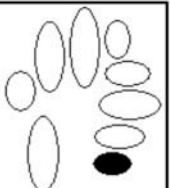
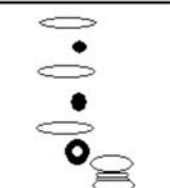
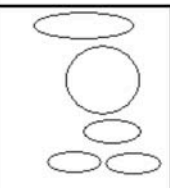
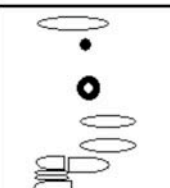
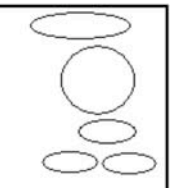
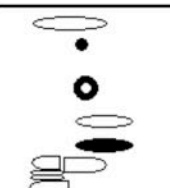
Bassoon



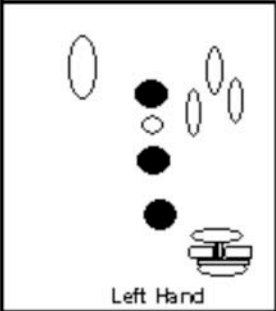
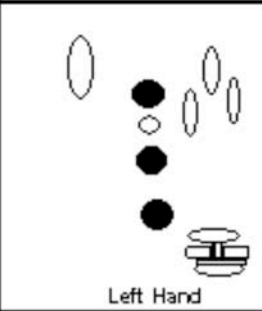
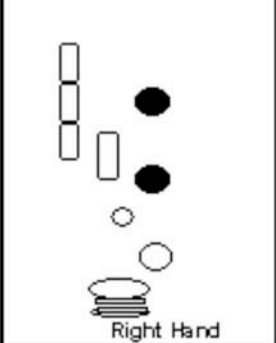
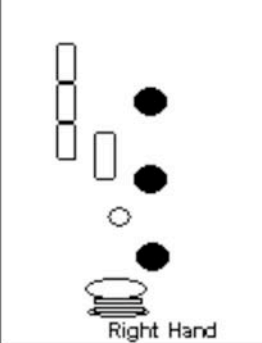


Bassoon



The next two notes are very similar. The low A and G on the bassoon are basically the same as the E and D on the saxophone.



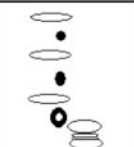
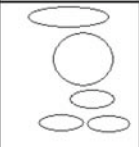

<b>A</b> 		<b>G</b> 	
			
Left Thumb	Left Fingers	Left Thumb	Left Fingers
			
Right Thumb	Right Fingers	Right Thumb	Right Fingers

	
	
Left Hand	Left Hand
	
Right Hand	Right Hand

Bassoon



Low F is slightly different than on the saxophone. The fingering is similar to the low C but the pinky keys are different.

F 	
 Left Thumb	 Left Fingers
 Right Thumb	 Right Fingers

Bassoon 

Now try the F major scale:

Bassoon 

F in thirds:

Bassoon 









