

RECORDER PLAYING

The recorder

The recorder is a woodwind instrument that has eight holes. The recorder was originally made of wood but nowadays materials like plastic are being used to produce it. The holes are either covered or uncovered to produce musical sounds. The recorder can only produce one sound at a time. There are various types of recorder namely descant recorder (the smallest), soprano recorder, tenor recorder and bass recorder. The recorder is held in a tilted position while blowing air into it as shown below:

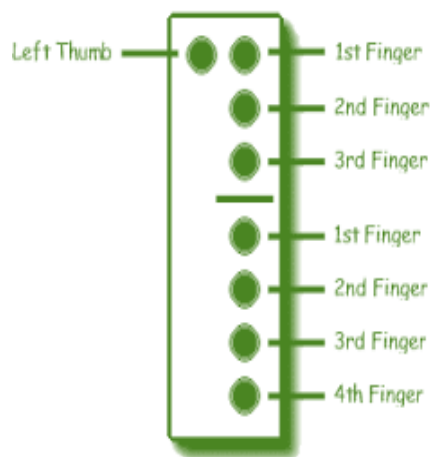


Finger placement

In playing the recorder, the thumb of the left hand is placed on the hole behind while the first finger (index finger) after the thumb is placed at the first hole on front as shown below.



The next two fingers of the left hand cover the two holes following below it. The last finger of the left hand (the shortest) is left free. The thumb of the right hand is placed behind the recorder while the first finger of the right hand after the thumb is placed on the next hole below. The remaining fingers are placed one after the other to cover the remaining holes.



It will appear like this



Recorder players are supposed to blow air gently into the recorder while applying the right fingering.

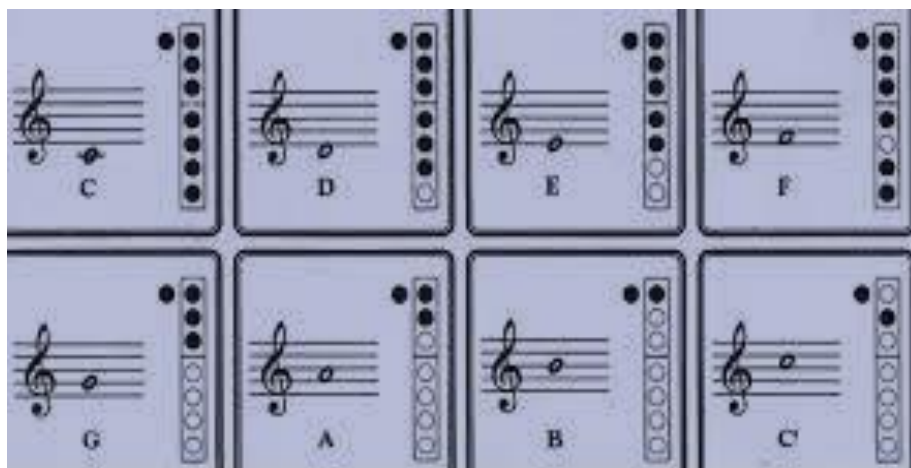
Look at the explanation below carefully

- - Hole Covered
- - Hole Left Open
- ◐ - Hole Partly-Covered

This will guide you in playing the following notes. Make sure you get one before playing another below it. Each note is to be played for four seconds twelve times.

Scale of C major

Remember that any hole drawn by the side whether shaded or not represents the position of the left thumb at the back of the recorder. Also a shaded hole means that the hole must be covered while an unshaded hole means it should be left open. Your musical sounds won't be nice if you do not cover the necessary holes very well or if you cover the wrong holes. Now follow the fingering one after the other while blowing air gently into the instrument.

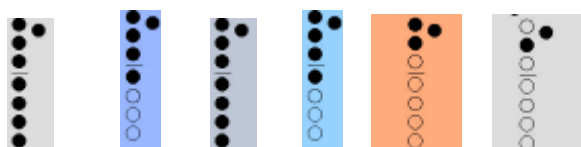


Class activity

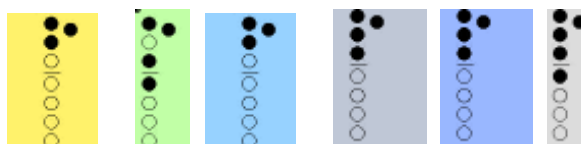
Practical playing

Following the given fingering, play the following songs

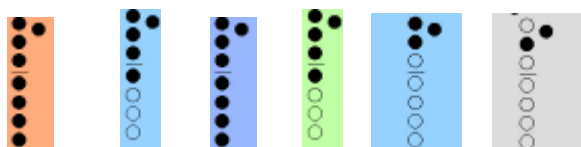
1.NIGERIAN NATIONAL ANTHEM (in F major)



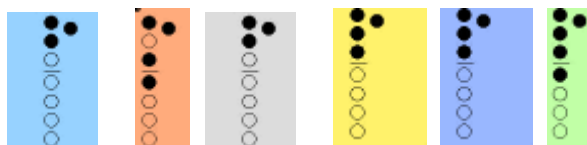
A-----rise O com- pa-----triots



Ni-----ge-----ria's call o- bey



To serve our fa-----ther----land



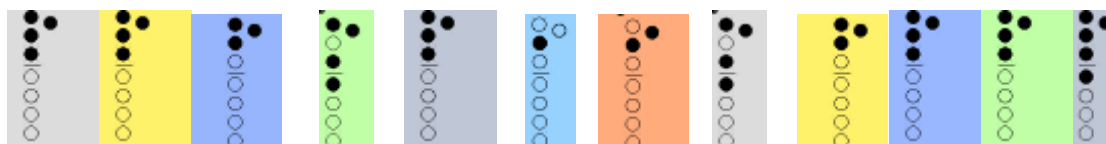
With love and strenght and faith



The la-----bours of our he- roes past shall ne- ver be in vain,



To serve with heart and might,



One na-----tion bound in free---dom peace and u-----ni-----ty

2.MARY HAD A LITTLE LAMB (G MAJOR)



Ma-----ry had a li-----ttle lamb, li-----ttle lamb, li-----ttle lamb,



Ma-----ry had a li-----ttle lamb, Its fleece was white as snow.

Uses of recorder

1. It is very suitable for beginners in music
2. It helps to develop sight reading skills in children
3. It is useful in developing proper music listening skills in children

Summary

The recorder is a woodwind instrument that has eight holes. The holes are either covered or uncovered to produce musical sounds. There are various types of recorder namely descant recorder (the smallest), soprano recorder, tenor recorder and bass recorder.

Review Questions

Describe a recorder in your own words

Play the scale of C major on the recorder

Play at one tune you have learnt in this lesson on the recorder