

GETTING STARTED

Assembling Your Recorder

- Recorders are made in one solid piece or three separate pieces.
- If your recorder is in three pieces, put it together to look like the picture.

Breathing and Air Flow

Your breath creates the "air stream" which allows the recorder to make its sound. The air stream should flow slowly and steadily.

Try this:

- Place the palm of your hand in front of your mouth.
- Pretend to take a "drink" of air, filling your belly.
- Keep your jaw relaxed, and shape your lips to let the air out slowly and steadily against your palm – like blowing soup in a spoon to cool it down. Be sure to blow gently, not hard.
- Repeat, but this time, pretend to say "doo(d)." Keep a steady flow of air to hold out the "oo" sound and make the final (d) silent to stop the air.

Your First Tone

A tone is a musical sound. The natural tone of the recorder is sweet and clear – not shrill or harsh.

To play your first tone:

- Hold the recorder upright with your left hand just below the vent opening on the mouthpiece. The vent should face away from you. Keep your chin level and relax your shoulders.
- Put the tip of the mouthpiece between your lips slightly in front of your teeth. Again, relax your jaw, "drink in" your air, and pretend to say "doo(d)." Hold out the "oo" sound and end with a silent (d).
- Make sure to blow gently without puffing your cheeks.

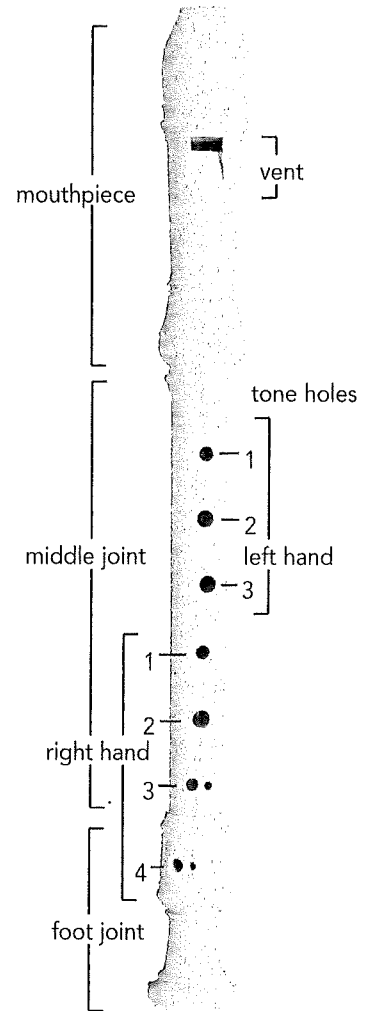
Practice the exercise below:



REST



REST



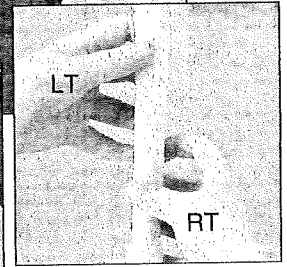
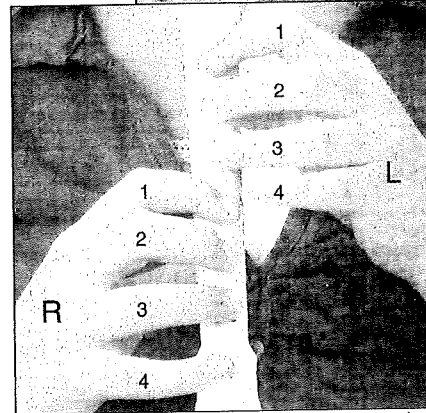
Care and Cleaning

- Use a cleaning rod to run a soft cloth through your recorder and gently into the mouthpiece. If your recorder has sections, take it apart to clean each part.
- Once in a while, you may want to clean your plastic recorder (not wood) in warm, soapy water and then rinse it in clear water. Let it dry before playing again.

Placing Your Fingers

To play the recorder, the fingers of your left and right hands are numbered. (See pictures).

- Relax both hands and "stack" them so the left hand is on top.
- Hold the recorder with your right hand, with the mouthpiece up. Cover the hole on the back with your left thumb (LT).
- Cover the top three holes on the front with the 1st, 2nd and 3rd fingers of your left hand. Your left 4th finger (baby finger) does not cover a hole.
- Let your right thumb (RT) rest on the back, halfway between your left thumb (LT) and the bottom of the recorder.
- Cover the remaining holes on the front with the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th fingers of your right hand.
- Compare your hand position with the pictures.



READING MUSIC

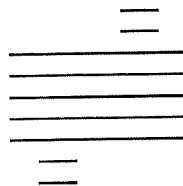
By reading music, you can learn to sing or play a song without hearing it first – just like reading a story.

Music Staff



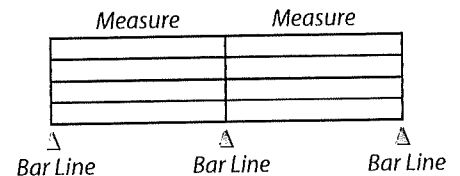
The **music staff** has 5 lines and 4 spaces where notes and rests are written.

Ledger Lines



Ledger lines extend the music staff. Notes on ledger lines can be above or below the staff.

Measures & Bar Lines

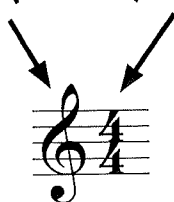


Bar lines divide the music staff into **measures**.

Double bar line indicates the end of a piece of music.

Treble Clef (G Clef)

indicates the position of note names on a music staff.



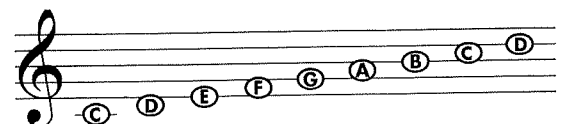
Time Signature

indicates how many beats per measure and what kind of note gets one beat.

- = **4 beats** per measure
- = **Quarter** note gets one beat

Note Names

Each note is on a line or space of the staff. These note names are indicated by the treble clef.



LET'S PLAY MUSIC

Quarter Note  or  = One Beat

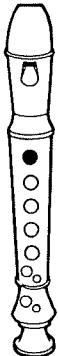
Quarter Rest  = One Silent Beat

Tonguing

The tongue starts the sound by releasing the air stream. Each tone should start with a soft "doo" sound. For notes followed by a rest, stop the air stream with a gentle, silent "d."

1. LET'S PLAY B

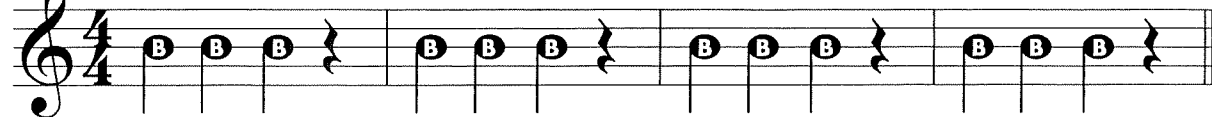
B
LT, 1



↳ To play "B," place your left thumb (LT) and first finger (L1) as shown. Your right thumb should rest on the back.

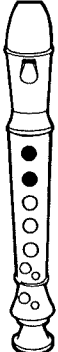
Left thumb (on back)

Quarter rest




2. LET'S PLAY A

A
LT, 1, 2




↳ To play "A," use your left thumb (LT) and two fingers (L1, 2).

Bar line




3. LET'S PLAY G

G
LT, 1, 2, 3



↳ To play "G," use your left thumb (LT) and three fingers (L1, 2, 3).

Double bar line



➤ If your recorder becomes clogged with moisture, press a finger into the vent and blow sharply to clear it.

REVIEW

Identify the notes (by letter name) and the symbols below. Write your answers on the blank lines.

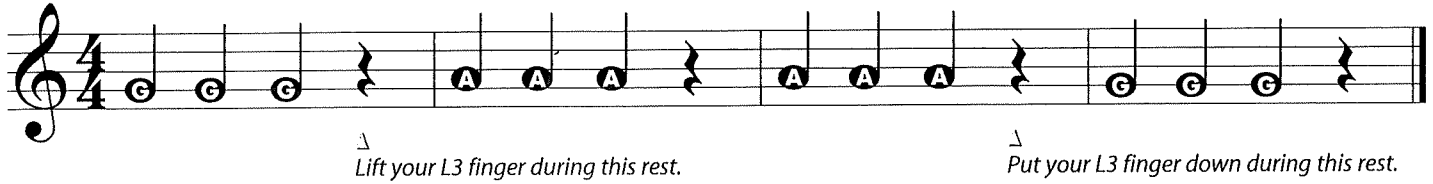


Tone

A tone is musical sound. To play a clear and sweet tone:

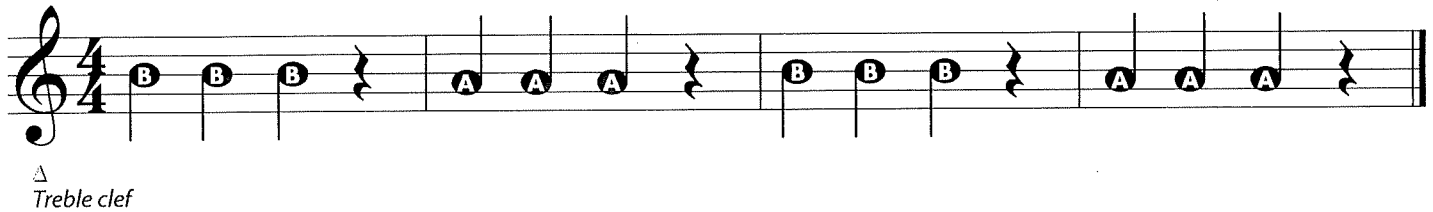
- Relax your jaw
- "Drink in" your air
- Use your tongue (doo) to gently release a steady air stream
- Blow gently, not hard

4. CHANGING NOTES



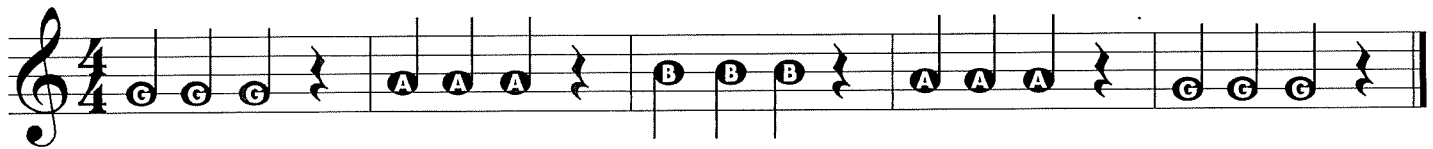
△
Lift your L3 finger during this rest.
△
Put your L3 finger down during this rest.

5. FROM THE TOP Try to change to the next fingering during the rests in this song.



△
Treble clef

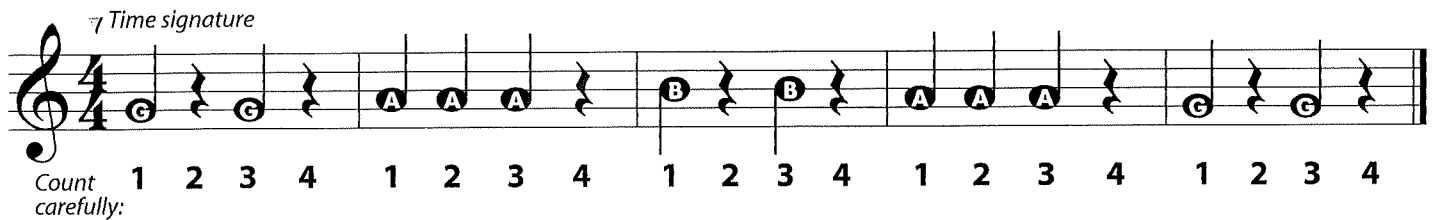
6. UP AND DOWN How many measures does this song have?



Rhythm

Rhythm is a pattern of notes and rests played over a steady beat.
No. 7 – Watch The Rests has a new rhythm.

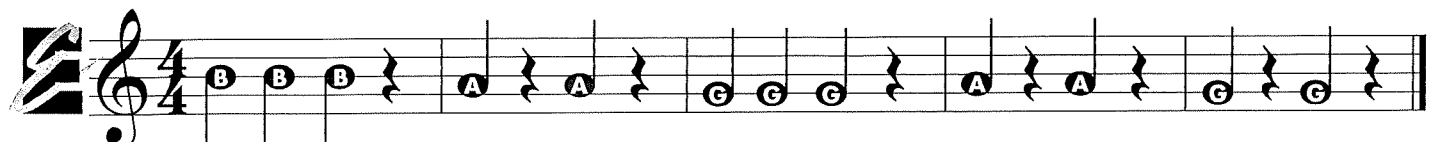
7. WATCH THE RESTS



△ Time signature

Count carefully: 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

8. ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS QUIZ Write in the counts below the notes and rests.



9. NOTE CHECK Write in the remaining note names before playing.

B A _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____

△ Write

10. STEP IT UP Write in the note names.

_____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____

Half Note

Count: 1 2

1 2 1 2

Half Rest

= 2 Silent Beats

11. STICK TOGETHER The note patterns in No. 10 and No. 11 are the same. How is the rhythm different?

▽ Half note

1 2 1 2 1 2

12. TIME OUT

▽ Half rest (2 beats)

1 2 1 2 1 2

doo (d)

Breath Mark ,

Take a quick, deep breath at the end of the note.
Be sure to play the next note on time.

13. HEADS UP

▽ Breathe , ▽ Breathe ,

1 2 3 4

Melody

A melody is a combination of different notes and rhythms that makes a tune you can sing or play. *Happy Birthday* is a melody most people know. Can you think of other melodies?

14. WHAT'S BAKING? *Can you identify this familiar melody?*

Breathe



Repeat Sign



Without stopping, play once again from the beginning.

15. INSTANT REPLAY



Repeat sign

16. TWICE IS NICE

Breathe



Duet

A duet has two different parts that are played together.

17. ECHOES - Duet

Musical notation for 'Echoes - Duet' in 4/4 time. It features two staves, A and B. Staff A has a melody of quarter notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. Staff B has a melody of quarter notes: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. There are rests in the second and fourth measures of both staves. The piece ends with a repeat sign.

18. ESSENTIAL CREATIVITY (Title)

Create your own title and words to fit the melody of this song.

Go to the next staff




Words



19. AT PIERRE'S DOOR

French

Two staves of music in 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody with a fermata over the final note. The second staff contains a bass line with a fermata over the final note.

Fermata  Hold the note (or rest) longer than normal.

20. SKIPPING AROUND

Two staves of music in 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody with a fermata over the final note. The second staff contains a bass line with a fermata over the final note, labeled '7 Fermata'.

World Music

People throughout the world have music that reflects their cultures. Sharing each other's music is a way of learning and connecting. *Suo Gan* is a lullaby from Wales, a country west of England in Great Britain. Welsh is the traditional language of Wales.

21. SUO GAN

Welsh

Two staves of music in 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody with a fermata over the final note. The second staff contains a bass line with a fermata over the final note.

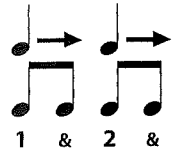
22. ROLLING ALONG

Traditional

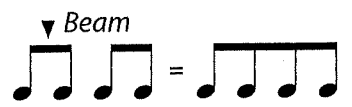
Two staves of music in 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody with lyrics: Mer - ri - ly we roll a - long, roll a - long, roll a - long. The second staff contains a bass line with lyrics: Mer - ri - ly we roll a - long, o'er the deep blue sea. A fermata is placed over the final note of the bass line.

Eighth Notes

Each eighth note = 1/2 Beat
 2 eighth notes = 1 Beat



Two or more eighth notes have a *beam* across the stems.



When counting eighth notes, it helps to put the word "and" (&) between each main beat.

23. RHYTHM RAP

Clap: :||

Count: 1 2 3 4 | 1 2 3 & 4 | 1 2 3 & 4 | 1 2 3 & 4

24. EIGHTH NOTE GROOVE

:||

25. RHYTHM RAP

Clap: :||

Count: 1 2 3 4 | 1 & 2 & 3 4 | 1 & 2 & 3 4

:||

1 & 2 & 3 4 | 1 & 2 3 & 4 | 1 & 2 & 3 4

26. MIX 'EM UP *Write in the remaining counts before playing.*


:||

27. ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS QUIZ - HOP OLD SQUIRREL *This is your first playing quiz.*

Virginia

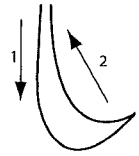
:||

2/4 Time Signature


 = 2 Beats per measure
 = Quarter note gets one beat


Conducting

Practice conducting this two-beat pattern.



28. RHYTHM RAP

Clap:




 Count: 1 2 1 2 1 & 2 & 1 2 & 1 2 & 1 & 2 1 & 2 1 & 2 & 1 2

29. TWO BY TWO



30. HOT CROSS BUNS

English



 Hot cross buns! Hot cross buns! One a pen-ny, Two a pen-ny, Hot cross buns!

Tempo Markings

Tempo is the speed of music. Tempo markings are usually written in Italian above the staff.
Allegro – Fast tempo **Moderato** – Medium tempo **Andante** – Slower, walking tempo

31. THE BELL TOWER

Andante

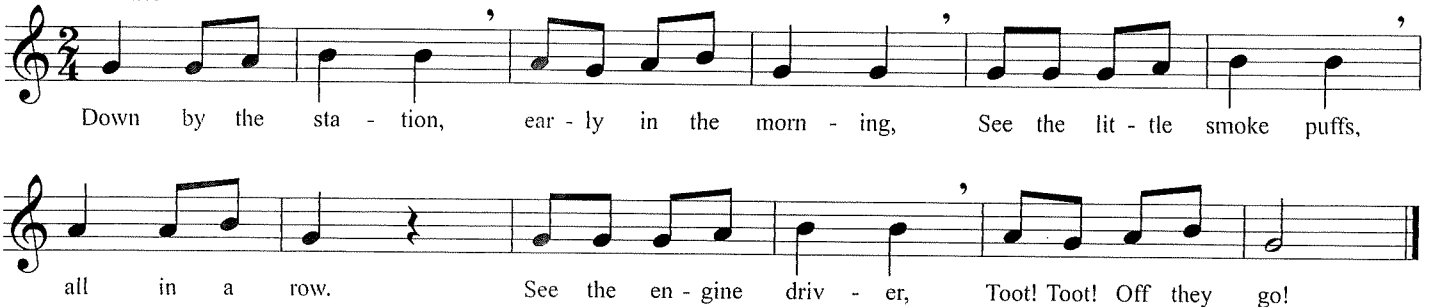
Traditional



32. DOWN BY THE STATION

Moderato

Traditional



 Down by the sta - tion, ear - ly in the morn - ing, See the lit - tle smoke puffs,
 all in a row. See the en - gine driv - er, Toot! Toot! Off they go!

33. ON THE MARCH

Allegro ↘ Fast tempo – continue to blow gently.



34. GOOD NEWS

African-American Spiritual

Moderato

Good news! Char-iot's a - com - ing! Good news! Char-iot's a - com - ing! Good news!

Char-iot's a - com - ing! Don't leave me be - hind! Don't you leave me here be - hind.

Pick-Up Notes

One or more notes that come before the first full measure are called **pick-up notes**. The beats of pick-up notes are subtracted from the last measure.

35. DRY BONES

African-American Spiritual

Moderato

△ Pick-up

Harmony

The sound of two or more notes played together is called **harmony**.

36. GRANDMA GRUNTS - Duet

Appalachian

Moderato

Harmony

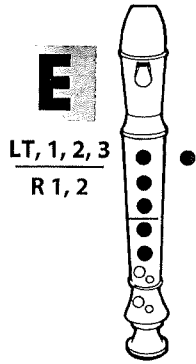
37. ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS QUIZ - THE BOATMAN (Playing Quiz)

Traditional

Allegro

Where is beat 4? /

38. LET'S PLAY E – New Note *E is a low, soft note. Be sure to blow very gently and steadily. To play E, you will use both hands. When you lift fingers, keep them just above the holes they cover.*



Andante

ΔE

39. STAR LIGHT, STAR BRIGHT

Andante

Traditional

40. TRIBAL DANCE

Moderato

41. FLOWER SONG

Andante

Δ Pick-up notes

1 (2 3) 4

Dynamics

f – forte (loud) *mf* – mezzo forte (moderately loud) *p* – piano (soft)

Dynamics make music more interesting for the listener. Recorder groups can best perform dynamics by adding and subtracting players.

42. DING DONG DELL

Allegro

Full group: *f* Half group: *mf* Traditional

Full: *f* Half: *mf* One or two players: *p*

43. LUCY LOCKET

Allegro
Full group: Half group: Full: Traditional

Musical notation for 'Lucy Locket' in 2/4 time. It consists of a single staff with a treble clef. The tempo is 'Allegro'. The piece is divided into three sections: 'Full group' (measures 1-4), 'Half group' (measures 5-6), and 'Full' (measures 7-8). Dynamics are marked as *f* for the first and third sections, and *mf* for the second. The piece ends with a repeat sign and a double bar line.

44. WONDERINGS *Is this in a fast or slow tempo?*

Andante

Musical notation for 'Wonderings' in 4/4 time. It consists of two staves with a treble clef. The tempo is 'Andante'. The notation includes various note values and rests, ending with a fermata on the final note of the second staff.

45. LITTLE SALLY WATER

Moderato
Full group: Half group: African-American

Musical notation for 'Little Sally Water' in 2/4 time. It consists of two staves with a treble clef. The tempo is 'Moderato'. The piece is divided into sections: 'Full group' (measures 1-4), 'Half group' (measures 5-6), and 'Full' (measures 7-8). Dynamics are marked as *f* for the first and third sections, and *mf* for the second. The piece ends with a double bar line.

46. A TISKET A TASKET

Moderato
Traditional

Musical notation for 'A Tisket A Tasket' in 2/4 time. It consists of two staves with a treble clef. The tempo is 'Moderato'. The lyrics are written below the notes. The piece ends with a double bar line.

A tis - ket a tas - ket, a green and yel - low bas - ket. Wrote a let - ter to my love and
on the way I dropped it, I dropped it, I dropped it, and on the way I dropped it.

A composition is an original piece of music. A person who writes music is called a composer.

Composition

For No. 47, *Enchanted Melody*, compose and write down your own ending using the notes B, A, G, or E. Be sure to include 4 beats of music in each measure.

47. ESSENTIAL CREATIVITY - ENCHANTED MELODY

Andante

Musical notation for 'Enchanted Melody' in 4/4 time. It consists of two staves with a treble clef. The tempo is 'Andante'. The notation includes various note values and rests, ending with a fermata on the final note of the second staff.

△ Write

Tie

A tie is a curved line connecting notes on the same line or space. Play one note for the combined counts of the tied notes.



1 Beat + 1 Beat = 2 Beats

48. FIT TO BE TIED

Moderato

Δ 2 beats

49. ALOUETTE

Moderato French-Canadian

Δ 3 beats

Dotted Half Note

= 3 Beats

Count: 1 2 3

◀ Dot

A dot adds half the value of the note.

2 Beats + 1 Beat = 3 Beats

50. ALOUETTE – THE SEQUEL *Compare this to No. 49.*

Moderato French-Canadian

51. KINGS AND CASTLES *Write in the remaining counts before playing.*

Moderato

Count: 1 2 & 3 4 1 2 3 4

52. COUNTRY JIG

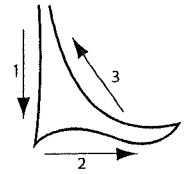
Allegro

3 Time Signature 4

= 3 Beats per measure
= Quarter note gets one beat

Conducting

Practice conducting this three-beat pattern.



53. RHYTHM RAP

Clap:

1 2 3 1 2 3 1 2 & 3 & 1 2 3 1 2 & 3 1 2 & 3 1 & 2 3 1 2 3

54. THREE BEAT JAM

Moderato

55. FAIS-DO-DO (FAY-doe-doe)

Andante

Louisiana

Fais - do - do and let us go dream - ing. Fais - do - do come dream - ing with me.

D.C. al Fine

At **D.C. al Fine**, play again from the beginning, stopping at **Fine** (FEE- nay). **D.C.** is the abbreviation for **Da Capo**, which means "to the beginning," and **Fine** means "the end."

56. COURT DANCE

Moderato

Fine

1st time, continue Δ

D.C. al Fine

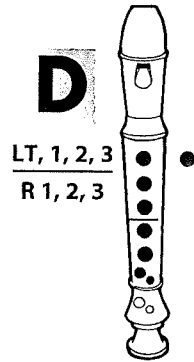
Go to beginning and play to Fine.

57. ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS QUIZ - ROCKIN' RESTS

Moderato

58. LET'S PLAY D – New Note

The note D is written in the space below the E line. Tongue softly with a gentle, steady air stream. Make sure R3 covers **both** holes.



Andante

ΔD

59. WALTZ PETITE

Moderato

60. CHIPPEWA LULLABY

Andante

Native American

Phrase A phrase is a musical "thought" that is often 2 or 4 measures long. Try to play a phrase in one breath.

61. ONE, TWO, THREE, O'LEARY

Allegro

Irish

Phrase

62. HEY, BETTY MARTIN Mark the phrases (☞) before playing.

Moderato

Full group:

Traditional

One or two players:

Full:

63. CHICKALILELO

Southern American

Moderato

La la la chick - a - li - lee - lo, La la la chick - a - li - lee - lo,
I'm gon - na mar - ry who I please, La la la chick - a - li - lee - lo.

64. THE JOLLY MILLER

Traditional

Allegro

1st and 2nd Endings

Play through the 1st Ending. Then play the repeated section of music, *skipping* the 1st Ending and playing the 2nd Ending.

65. JOLLY OLD SAINT NICK

Traditional

Moderato

2nd time →

66. WAYFARING STRANGER

Traditional

Andante Full group:

1. 2.

Half group: *mf* *p*

One or two players:

67. ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS QUIZ - OLD BRASS BAND

Ozark Mountains

Moderato

1. 2.

68. OLD MAC'S FARM

Traditional

Moderato

Repeat before continuing Δ

(1 2 3 4)

Detailed description: This is a musical score for 'Old Mac's Farm' in 4/4 time, marked Moderato. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The melody is simple and rhythmic. The second staff continues the melody with some rests. The third staff concludes the piece with a double bar line and a repeat sign. Below the third staff, the numbers (1 2 3 4) are written, indicating a four-measure repeat.

69. THE GREAT WALL *Mark the phrases (∩) before playing.*

Fine

Moderato

D.C. al Fine

Detailed description: This is a musical score for 'The Great Wall' in 3/4 time, marked Moderato. It consists of two staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The melody is simple and rhythmic. The second staff continues the melody with some rests. The piece ends with a double bar line and the instruction 'D.C. al Fine'.

70. HOLE IN THE BUCKET

German

Allegro

Where's beat 3? Δ

Detailed description: This is a musical score for 'Hole in the Bucket' in 3/4 time, marked Allegro. It consists of two staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The melody is simple and rhythmic. The second staff continues the melody with some rests. The piece ends with a double bar line. Below the second staff, the text 'Where's beat 3?' is written with a triangle symbol, indicating a specific point in the music.

71. JOIN THAT BAND - Duet *Can you hear the melody move between part A and B?*

African-American Spiritual

Allegro

Full group:

∩ Harmony

A

B

▲ 2 beats

Detailed description: This is a musical score for 'Join That Band - Duet' in 4/4 time, marked Allegro. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff is for the full group. The second and third staves are for parts A and B. The piece is in 4/4 time and has a key signature of one flat. The melody is simple and rhythmic. The second staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The melody is simple and rhythmic. The third staff continues the melody with some rests. The piece ends with a double bar line. Below the third staff, the text '▲ 2 beats' is written, indicating a specific point in the music.