

Recorder

The RECORDER is a very old instrument. It most likely originated in Italy during the 14th century. It could be found in many countries throughout Europe during the Renaissance period. England's King Henry VIII was known to play the recorder. Although not usually considered an "orchestral" instrument, the recorder is an important part of music by such well-known composers as Bach, Handel and Vivaldi. Today, the recorder is a popular instrument for playing many different styles of music.

Hold the recorder in both hands, so that the first four fingers of your right hand cover the lowest four finger holes on the recorder. Fingers 1, 2 & 3 on your left hand should cover the top three finger holes, and your left thumb should cover the thumb hole in the back. Blow gently into the recorder. The hardest thing about playing the recorder is getting the right pitch, or note, from this starting position. With all the finger holes and the thumb hole covered, the note you should be able to produce is called "middle C." If you get a high-pitched squeak, keep practicing until you can consistently produce a nice sounding tone by making the air flow from the back of your throat.. The Fingering Chart (below) shows how to play a chromatic scale (both the white and black keys on a piano). To play a C Major scale, just play the notes labeled C, D, E, F, G, A, B, c.



| | C | C# | D | D# | E | F | F# | G | G# | A | A# | B | c | |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|---|------------|
| Thumb Hole | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | Left thumb |
| Top | ●●● | ●●● | ●●● | ●●● | ●●● | ●●● | ●●● | ●●● | ●●● | ●●○ | ●●○ | ●○ | ○ | Left Hand |
| Bottom | ●●● | ●●○ | ●●○ | ●●○ | ●●○ | ●○ | ●○ | ●○ | ●○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | Right Hand |

○-hole open ●-hole covered ◐-hole half covered