

# Recorder

for beginners

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16th century Italian school, "The Pastoral Concert: Music"  
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On the front cover, the recorder player is using an antiquated playing position, which reverses the left and right hands from the correct modern position as used in this book.

An Easy  
Beginning  
Method

CD recorded at Bar None Studios, Northford, CT


SUSAN LOWENKRON

On this page, you'll learn your first recorder exercises. One of the most important aspects of playing music is keeping time. Musical time, or *rhythm*, is measured in beats, which are like a musical heartbeat. We strive to keep the beats pulsing evenly.

In written music, we organize beats into groups called *measures*, which are separated by *bar lines*. In all of the exercises below, there are four beats in each measure. A *double bar* shows the end of the exercise.

Try these exercises.

Practice whispering "tu" on each note (not playing the recorder yet).

 = Quarter note. One beat (count).

1  
Track 1

Whisper: Tu tu tu tu Tu tu tu tu

Count: 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

Bar line  
Separates measures

Double bar  
Indicates the end of a section or exercise.

Now clap once for each note and count aloud ("1-2-3-4"), trying to keep the beat as steady as a ticking clock.

2  
Track 2

Clap each note:

Count: 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

In the next exercise, tongue ("tu") and play the quarter-note Bs on your recorder.

3  
Track 3

Play each note:

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

Try counting aloud and clapping the next pattern of notes and rests (the rhythm), holding your hands apart for the rests. A rest is a symbol that indicates silence. Each quarter rest receives one beat, same as each quarter note. Say: "1-2-3-rest, 1-2-3-rest, 1-2-3-rest, 1-2-3-rest."


4  
Track 4

Say: 1 2 3 rest 1 2 3 rest 1 2 3 rest 1 2 3 rest

Count: 1 2 3 (4) 1 2 3 (4) 1 2 3 (4) 1 2 3 (4)

Practice this exercise two different ways:

1. Finger the note while you name it and the rests, saying "B-B-B-rest," etc.
2. Play it on the recorder.

 = Quarter rest. One beat of silence.

5  
Track 5

Say: B B B rest B B B rest B B B rest B B B rest

Count: 1 2 3 (4) 1 2 3 (4) 1 2 3 (4) 1 2 3 (4)

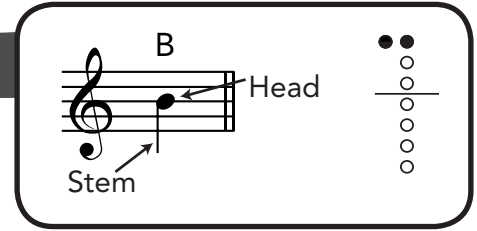
## Things to Remember

In  $\frac{4}{4}$  time:

- There are four beats in each measure.
- A quarter note (♩ or ♪) gets one beat. Notes lower than B (the middle staff line) have their stems going up on the right.
- A quarter rest (♩) indicates one beat of silence.

### Introducing B

Here is the note B on the staff. It is on the third line. Notice that the note has two parts: the *head* and the *stem*.



Play these exercises.

10  Track 6.1



Count: 1 2 3 (4) 1 2 3 (4) 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 (4)

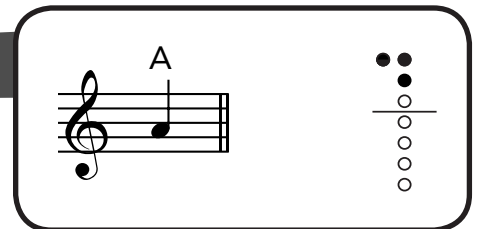
11  Track 6.2



Count: 1 (2) 3 (4) 1 2 3 (4) 1 (2) 3 (4) (1) 2 3 (4)

### Introducing A

The note A is written one place lower on the staff than B, on the second space. Add a finger to the next hole down to create this lower-sounding pitch.



#### Second-Space A

12  Track 7.1



Count: 1 2 3 4 1 (2) 3 (4) 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 (4)

#### Bs and As

13  Track 7.2



Count: 1 (2) 3 (4) 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 (4) 1 (2) 3 (4)

#### Faster Bs and As

Try to finger and name the notes aloud before playing this one.

14  Track 7.3



Count: 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 (1) 2 3 4 (1) 2 3 4