

# FINGERING CHARTS

Figure 6.1. Flute Fingering Chart

## Flute Key Chart

**LEFT Hand**

- Thumb: B $\flat$ , B
- 1st finger
- 2nd finger
- 3rd finger
- 4th finger (pinky): G $\sharp$

**RIGHT Hand**

- 1st finger: A $\sharp$  Shake/B $\flat$  Lever
- 2nd finger: D Trill
- 3rd finger: D $\sharp$  Trill
- 4th finger (pinky): E $\flat$ , C $\sharp$ , C, B, Gizmo Key

- S** (yellow arrow pointing up): indicates notes that are often **Sharp** in pitch.
- F** (black arrow pointing down): indicates notes that are often **Flat** in pitch.
- vS** (yellow arrow pointing up with 'v'): indicates notes that are **VERY SHARP** in pitch.
- vF** (black arrow pointing down with 'v'): indicates notes that are **VERY FLAT** in pitch.

**F = Flat    S = Sharp**

- Stable Tuning Note** (blue box): indicates notes most stable for tuning in band.
- Green circle**: indicates suggested fingerings to **add**.
- Red circle**: indicates suggested fingerings to **subtract**.

**NOTE:** Fingering chart does NOT include all alternate and trill fingerings. The chart attempts to identify the best fingering choices for use in lyrical & technical passages and only when alternate fingerings must be used to correct resonance and/or pitch.

! CAUTION !

Every instrument, even identical models, can have varying pitch tendencies. Learn the pitch of your instrument and advance your skills to *voice / place / lip* every note in tune. Use alternate fingerings only when necessary!

Stable Tuning Notes with Band:

Concert B $\flat$ , F, A

Best Tuning Notes for Flute Alone

A, D

\*First check that cork of headjoint is in aligned distance to the center of the embouchure tone hole. Then tune the headjoint draw-length by playing these two octave Ds (fingering D creates a closed tube to which the flute has been acoustically designed.)

Tune instrument with headjoint by pulling out if sharp or pushing in if flat. Headjoint cork should be 17 -17.3 mm from center of embouchure hole. Use notch in cleaning rod to check distance. Headjoint should not be pulled out any further than 1/4" (A442 pitched flutes can be pulled out as far as 5/8")

**First Octave**      Typically flat in low register, therefore humor pitch up by directing air-stream up and/or rolling out slightly.

\* flute with low B key

Tune at *mf* (not any softer or louder) and maintain steady air support.


Second Octave



**Third Octave**

D D# Eb E F F# G<sup>b</sup> G

If F for soft notes only (prevents flatness) If S for soft notes only (prevents flatness) If S for soft notes only (prevents flatness) for soft notes only (prevents flatness)

The flute is an *open tube*.  
 The first octave is produced by the fundamental (first partial) vibration of the pipe; vibrates in *one part*.  
 The second octave is produced by the second partial; vibrates in *two parts*, and  
 the third octave is produced by the third and fourth partials; vibrates in *four parts*.

**Fourth Octave (Altissimo)**

G<sup>#</sup> A<sup>b</sup> A A<sup>#</sup> B<sup>b</sup> B C C<sup>#</sup> D

If S If F for soft notes only (prevents flatness) If F \* Use Gizmo key vs. B-key if available. If F

**General Note:**

The more fingers *down* on a regular fingering, the *flatter* the pitch.  
 The more fingers *up* on a regular fingering, the *sharper* the pitch.  
 To ▼ pitch, one can **add** any finger, after the first open hole, in first two octaves.  
 To ▲ pitch, one can **come off** to just the ring of the key (on an open-hole flute).

**Gizmo Key**

A small raised lever mounted on the low B key arm to facilitate the individual closing of the low B key. Also known as "high C facilitator"; this lever helps in producing clearer 4th octave C.

**Harmonic Fingerings**

If harmonic fingerings are used to play notes in the higher register the pitch will be flat. It is suggested to only use harmonic fingerings when conventional fingerings are impractical.