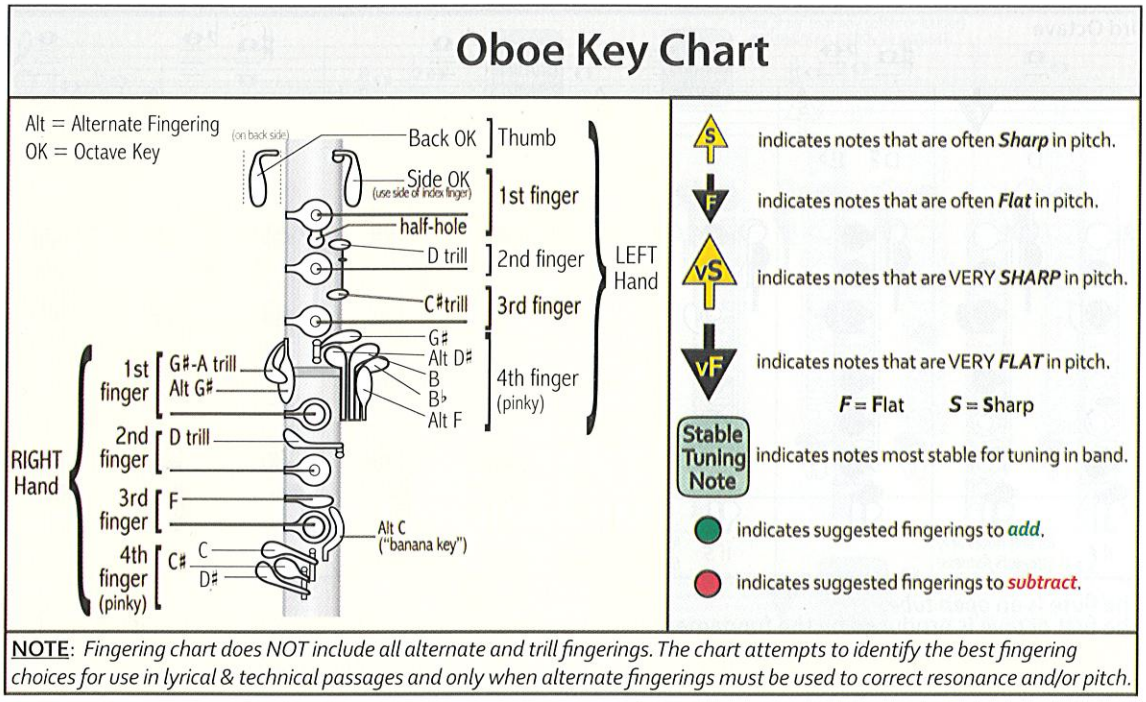
Figure 6.2. Oboe Fingering Chart



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.*

To correct sharpness in pitch:

1. Relax lips and pull chin down and flat; lips still puckered, but with less firmness; (vowel = ***pooh***)
2. Open up the inside of mouth to reduce *biting;* (vowel = ***aw***)
3. Stay towards the tip of reed.
   The more lip in contact with the reed, the sharper you force the reed to play.

To correct flatness in pitch: (make sure reed is pushed in all the way), then:

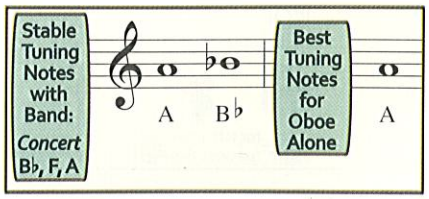
1. Use faster, focused air; maintain air support and aim air forward and higher in mouth (vowel = ***ee***)
2. Firm the lips; use a smaller lip opening and press lip corners *in* to sides of reed.
3. Take more reed in mouth; more lips in contact with reed. (Lifting oboe *up and in* also accomplishes this.)

If *consistently* sharp in pitch:

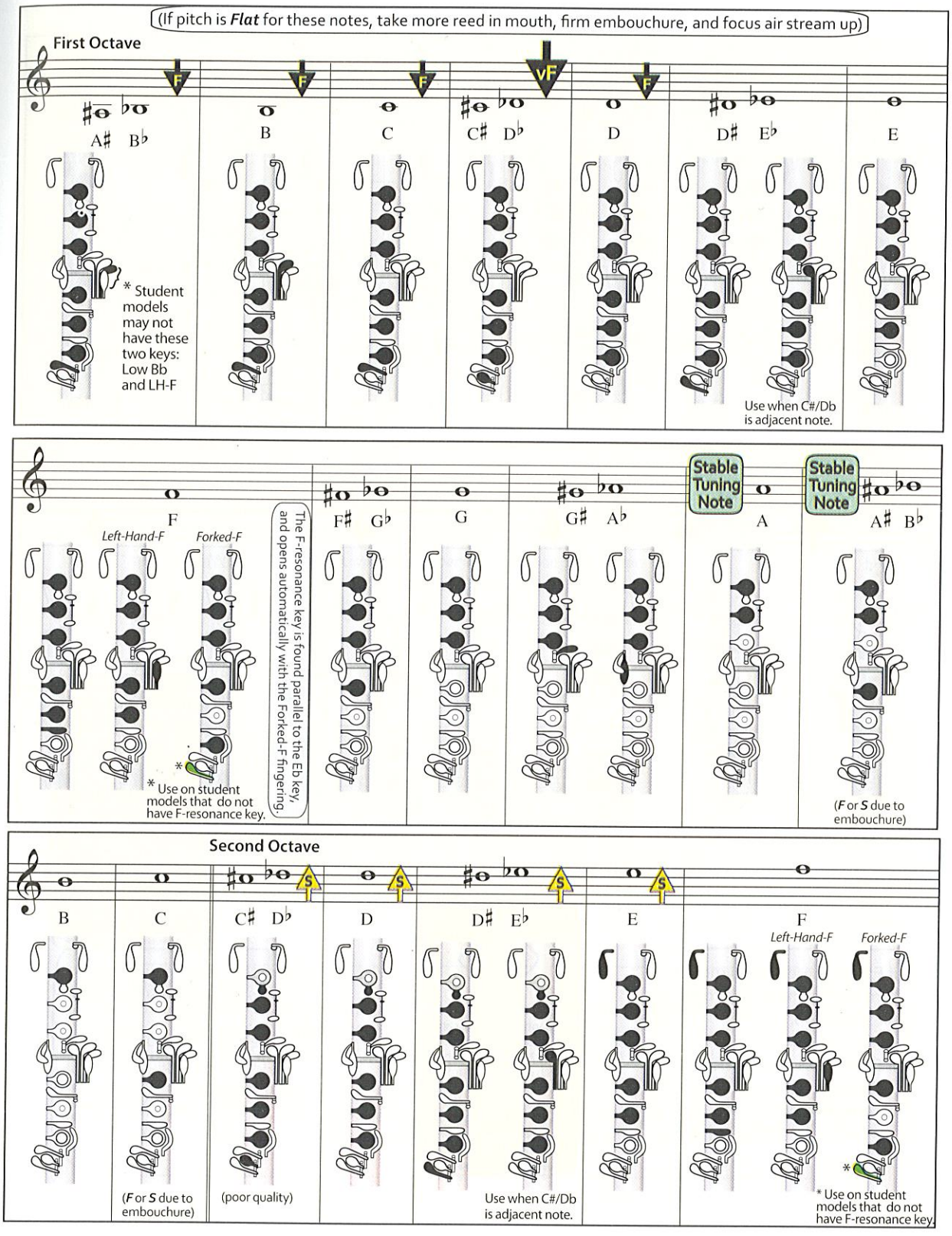
1. Is embouchure too tight or pinching?
2. Are you taking too much reed into the mouth?

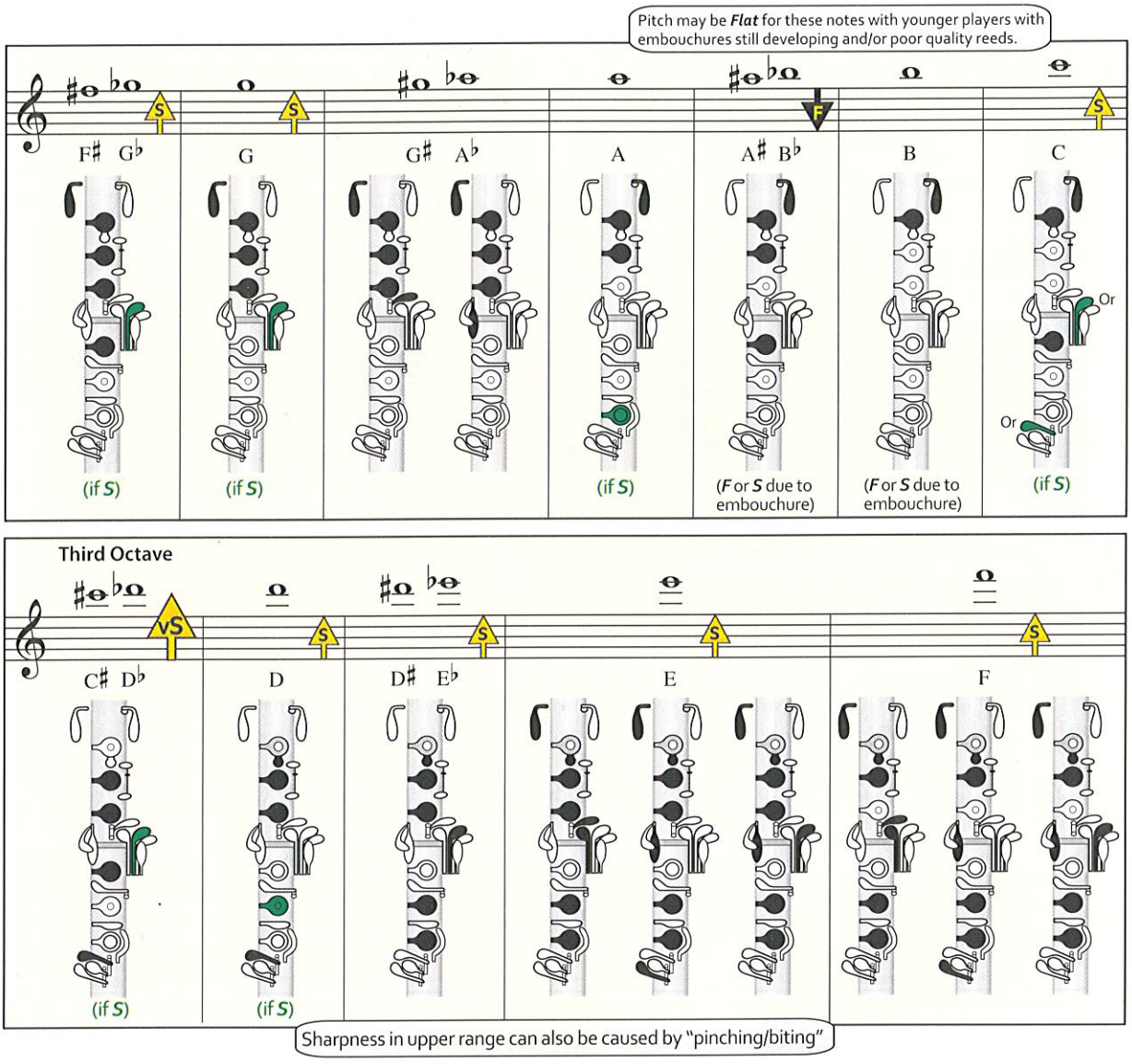
If *consistently* flat in pitch:

1. Is embouchure too loose?
2. Are you taking enough reed into the mouth?



Oboists require a good embouchure and a balanced, quality reed to play with good pitch and tone.
The oboe reed should always be pushed completely in the reed receptor cup initially.
Only minute adjustment (1/4" at most) by pulling out/pushing in of reed should ever be used, if at all.





if ***F***, take more reed in mouth, firm embouchure, and focus air stream up.

if ***S***, take less reed in mouth, relax embouchure, and focus air stream down.

! 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!

Practice reed "crows" for pitch-embouchure flexibility.

Never play on an old reed; a student reed typically lasts 2 1/2 weeks.