

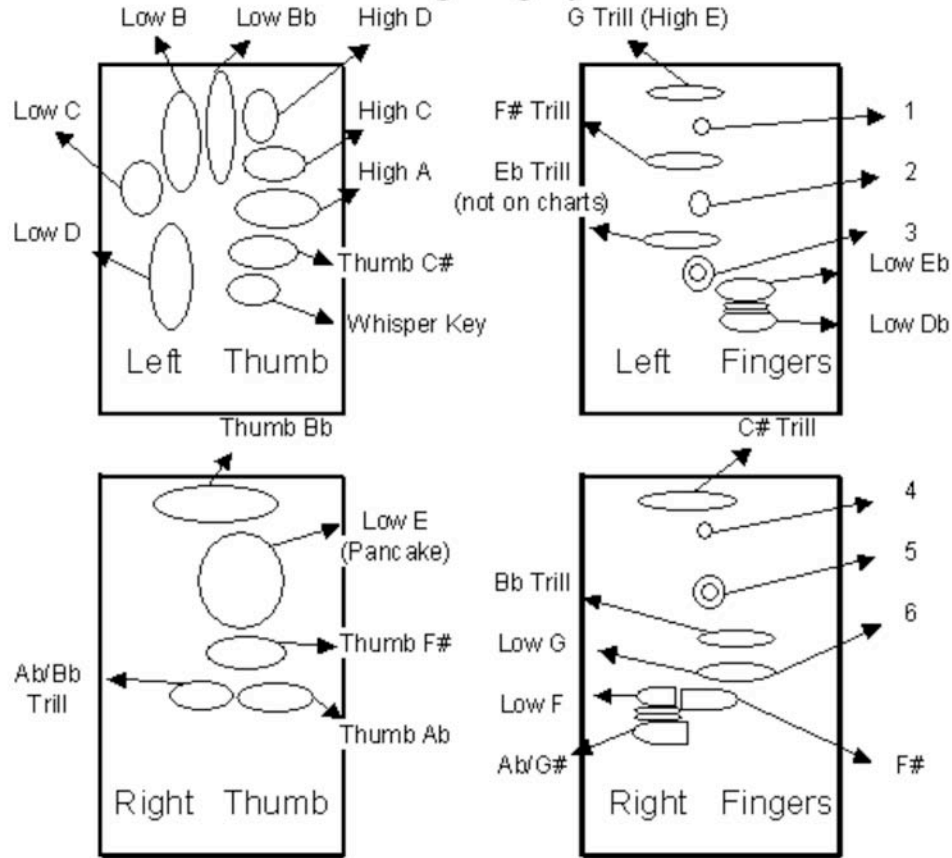
## **Transferring from the Flute:**

Many of the fingerings encountered while playing the bassoon are very similar to those on the flute. Looking at the fingering system of the bassoon vs. the flute you will notice the same basic six-finger set-up. The major differences occur when comparing the use of the thumb. The embouchure will obviously be different but again the finger placement is similar.

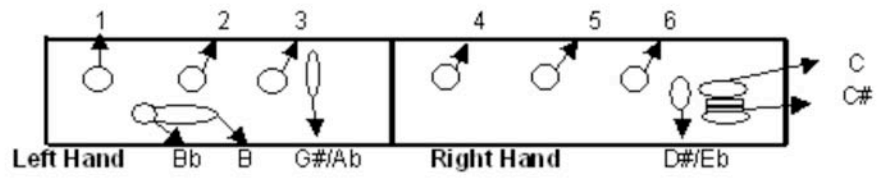
The best place to start comparing the two would be with the B on the flute and the E on the bassoon. They use basically the same fingering but do not read the same notes.



### Bassoon Fingering System



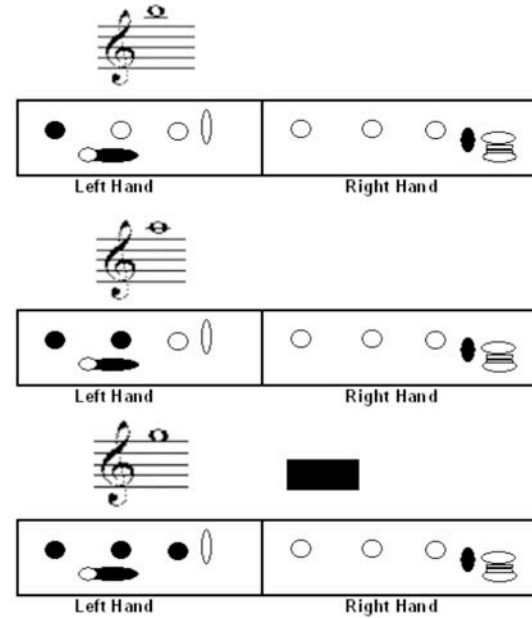
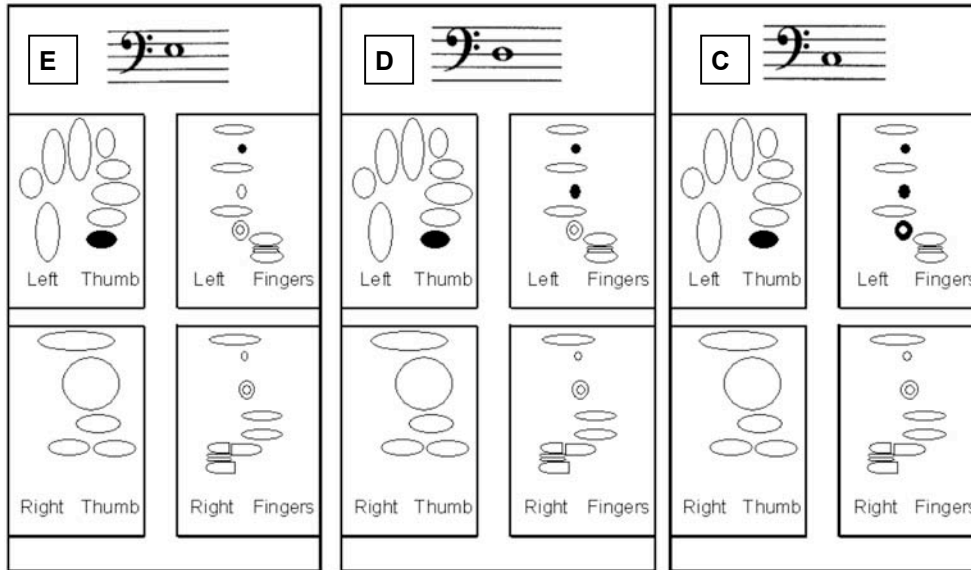
### Flute Fingering System



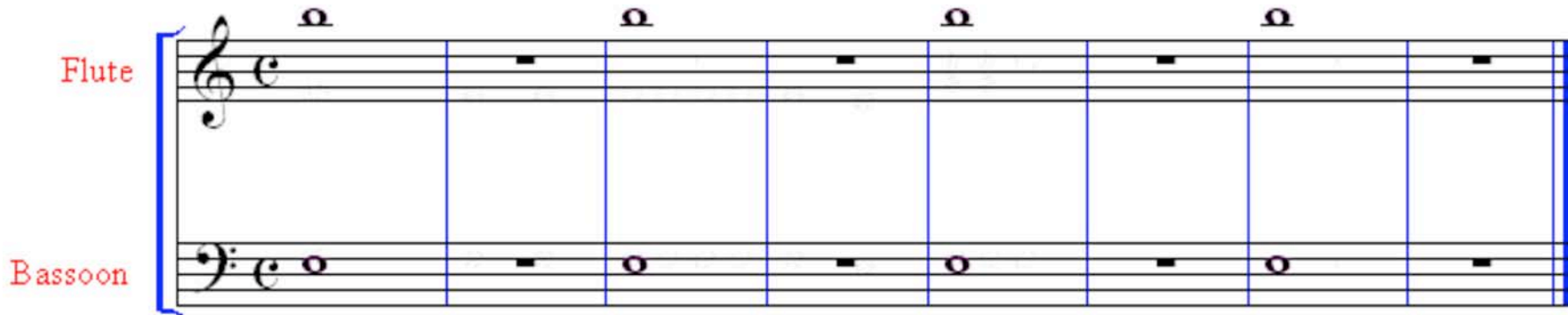
Notice the similarities between the fingering systems of the bassoon and the flute. Each instrument has the same basic finger placement of fingers 1-6. The thumb and pinky keys are different

Bassoon First Three Notes: E, D, and C

Flute: B, A, and G



Now try playing the first note E on the bassoon, which is the same as B on the flute.



Notice that the fingering is basically the same on both instruments. The thumb is down on both instruments as well as the first index finger. \*\*These exercises are not to be played simultaneously. They are only used as a comparison.

Now try D: (same as A on the flute)

Musical score for Flute and Bassoon. The Flute part is in the treble clef and the Bassoon part is in the bass clef. Both are in common time (C). The exercise consists of eight measures. In the first measure, the Flute plays a D4 (A on the flute) and the Bassoon plays a D3. In the second measure, both instruments have a whole rest. In the third measure, the Flute plays a D4 and the Bassoon plays a D3. In the fourth measure, both instruments have a whole rest. In the fifth measure, the Flute plays a D4 and the Bassoon plays a D3. In the sixth measure, both instruments have a whole rest. In the seventh measure, the Flute plays a D4 and the Bassoon plays a D3. In the eighth measure, both instruments have a whole rest.

How about C: (same as G on the flute)

Musical score for Flute and Bassoon. The Flute part is in the treble clef and the Bassoon part is in the bass clef. Both are in common time (C). The exercise consists of eight measures. In the first measure, the Flute plays a C4 (G on the flute) and the Bassoon plays a C3. In the second measure, both instruments have a whole rest. In the third measure, the Flute plays a C4 and the Bassoon plays a C3. In the fourth measure, both instruments have a whole rest. In the fifth measure, the Flute plays a C4 and the Bassoon plays a C3. In the sixth measure, both instruments have a whole rest. In the seventh measure, the Flute plays a C4 and the Bassoon plays a C3. In the eighth measure, both instruments have a whole rest.

Mix them up:

Musical score for Flute and Bassoon. The Flute part is in the treble clef and the Bassoon part is in the bass clef. Both are in common time (C). The exercise consists of eight measures. In the first measure, the Flute plays a C4 (G on the flute) and the Bassoon plays a C3. In the second measure, the Flute has a whole rest and the Bassoon plays a D3. In the third measure, the Flute plays a D4 and the Bassoon has a whole rest. In the fourth measure, both instruments have a whole rest. In the fifth measure, the Flute has a whole rest and the Bassoon plays a C3. In the sixth measure, the Flute plays a C4 and the Bassoon has a whole rest. In the seventh measure, the Flute has a whole rest and the Bassoon plays a D3. In the eighth measure, both instruments have a whole rest.

Now try a familiar song:  
Hot Cross Buns

Flute

Bassoon

The image shows a musical score for two instruments: Flute and Bassoon. The Flute part is written on a treble clef staff in C major, 4/4 time. The Bassoon part is written on a bass clef staff in the same key and time. The score consists of eight measures. Vertical blue lines separate the measures. The Flute part starts with a quarter rest in the first measure, followed by quarter notes G4, A4, B4, and C5. The Bassoon part starts with a quarter note G3, followed by quarter notes A3, B3, and C4. The melody continues with eighth and sixteenth notes in the final four measures.

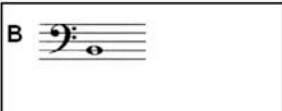
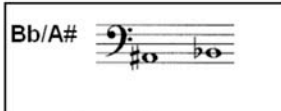
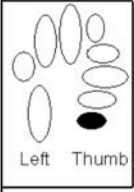
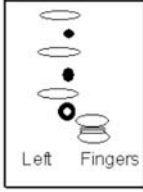
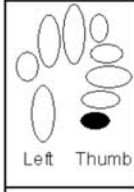
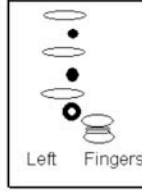

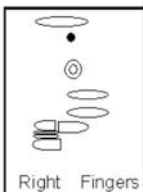
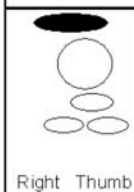
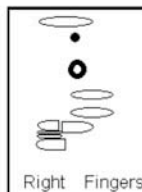
F is different on the bassoon but not too difficult. You just use your left thumb on the whisper key.

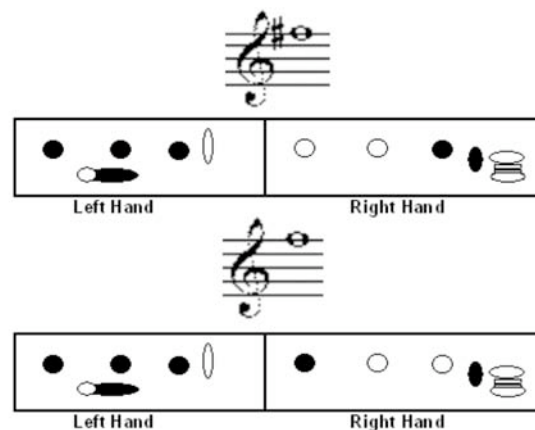
<p>Left Thumb</p>	<p>Left Fingers</p>
<p>Right Thumb</p>	<p>Right Fingers</p>

Bassoon

The image shows a musical score for the Bassoon part of 'Hot Cross Buns'. It is written on a bass clef staff in C major, 4/4 time. The score consists of eight measures. The first measure has a quarter rest. The second measure has a quarter note G3. The third measure has quarter notes A3 and B3. The fourth measure has quarter notes C4, D4, and E4. The fifth measure has eighth notes F4, G4, A4, and B4. The sixth measure has eighth notes C5, B4, A4, and G4. The seventh measure has quarter notes F4 and E4. The eighth measure has a whole note C4.

The B and Bb have similar fingering patterns but beware of the difference between hands on each instrument: The bassoon has a half step between hands, while the flute has a whole step. These fingerings will be different.

			
 Left Thumb	 Left Fingers	 Left Thumb	 Left Fingers
 Right Thumb	 Right Fingers	 Right Thumb	 Right Fingers



The diagrams illustrate the difference in fingering between hands for B and Bb on the flute. The top diagram shows the fingering for B, where the left hand has a half-step difference from the right hand. The bottom diagram shows the fingering for Bb, where the left hand has a whole-step difference from the right hand.

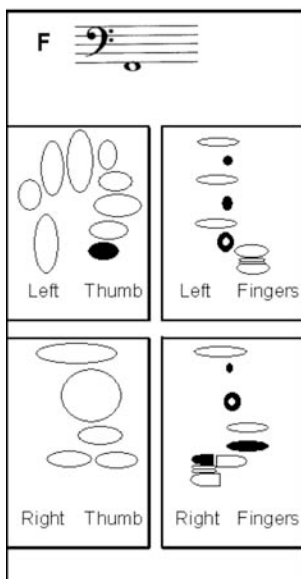
Now practice the B and Bb on the bassoon: (remember they are not the same fingerings as the flute)

**Bassoon** 

**Bassoon** 



Low F is slightly different than on the flute. The fingering is similar to the low C but the pinky keys are different.



Bassoon



Now try the F major scale:

Bassoon



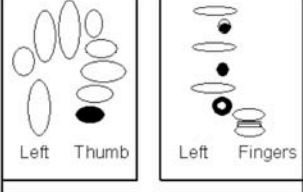
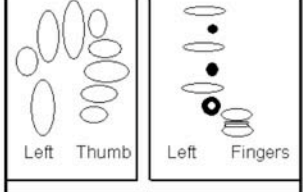
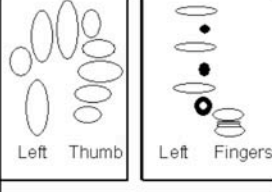
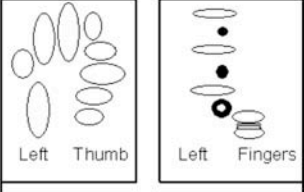
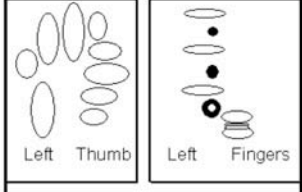
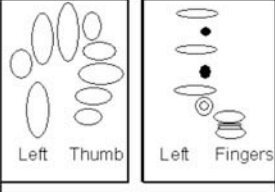
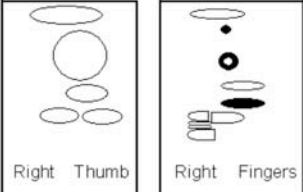
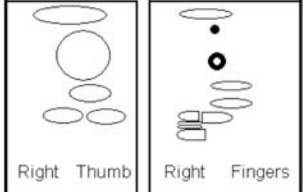
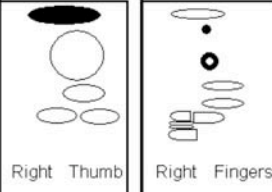
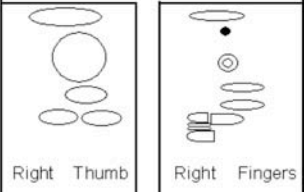
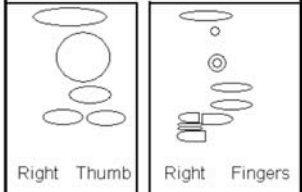
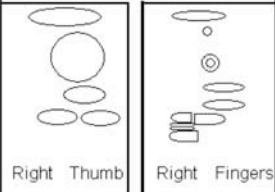
F in thirds:

Bassoon



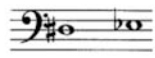
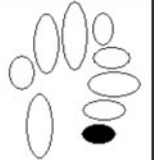
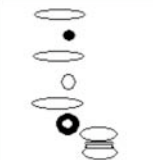
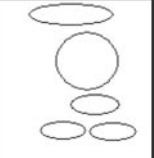
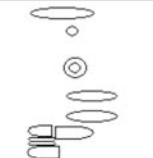


To get notes above the F they are played much like the lower octave with a few differences:

G	A	Bb A#	B	C	D
					
					

You should notice that these fingerings are almost the same except for the half whole on the G and the lifting up of the left thumb from the whisper key. These fingerings are much like the low octave but remember the B and Bb fingerings are different.






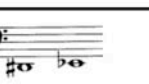
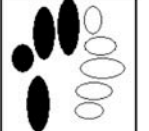
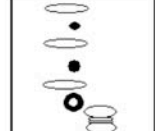
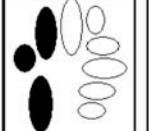
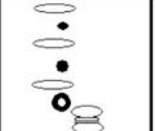
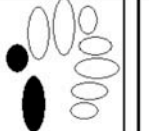
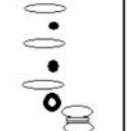
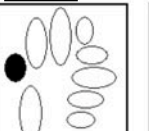
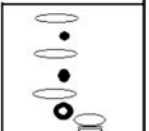
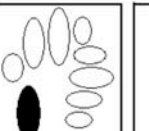
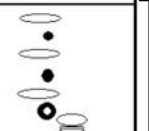
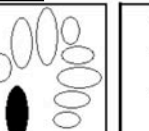
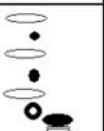
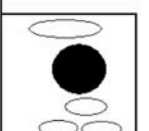
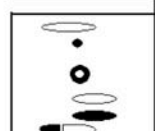
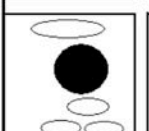
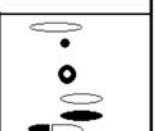
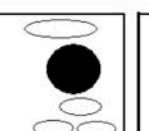
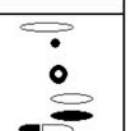
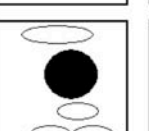
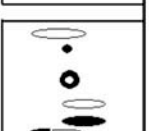
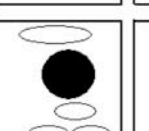
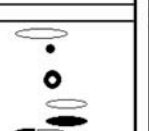

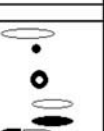
The next note that is very important to know is Eb. (This fingering does not relate to the flute.)



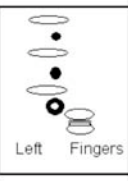
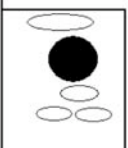

<b>Eb</b> <b>D#</b> 	
 Left Thumb	 Left Fingers
 Right Thumb	 Right Fingers



Low register of bassoon:

The left thumb holds the key to many of the lowest notes on the bassoon.

<b>Bb</b> <b>A#</b> 	<b>B</b> 	<b>C</b> 	<b>C#</b> <b>Db</b> 	<b>D</b> 	<b>Eb</b> <b>D#</b> 						
 <p>Left Thumb</p>	 <p>Left Fingers</p>	 <p>Left Thumb</p>	 <p>Left Fingers</p>	 <p>Left Thumb</p>	 <p>Left Fingers</p>	 <p>Left Thumb</p>	 <p>Left Fingers</p>	 <p>Left Thumb</p>	 <p>Left Fingers</p>	 <p>Left Thumb</p>	 <p>Left Fingers</p>
 <p>Right Thumb</p>	 <p>Right Fingers</p>	 <p>Right Thumb</p>	 <p>Right Fingers</p>	 <p>Right Thumb</p>	 <p>Right Fingers</p>	 <p>Right Thumb</p>	 <p>Right Fingers</p>	 <p>Right Thumb</p>	 <p>Right Fingers</p>	 <p>Right Thumb</p>	 <p>Right Fingers</p>

<b>E</b> 	 <p>Left Thumb</p>	 <p>Left Fingers</p>
 <p>Right Thumb</p>	 <p>Right Fingers</p>	

Try these exercises to learn the low register:



Now you are ready to try a 2-octave Bb scale:



This is a good start for your switch to the bassoon you are well on your way to knowing many of the notes necessary to play the bassoon. At the end of the book there is a section on suggested method books for additional studies. Be sure to check the fingering chart and try to learn the entire chromatic scale on the bassoon.