

OBOE

Tune The Instrument

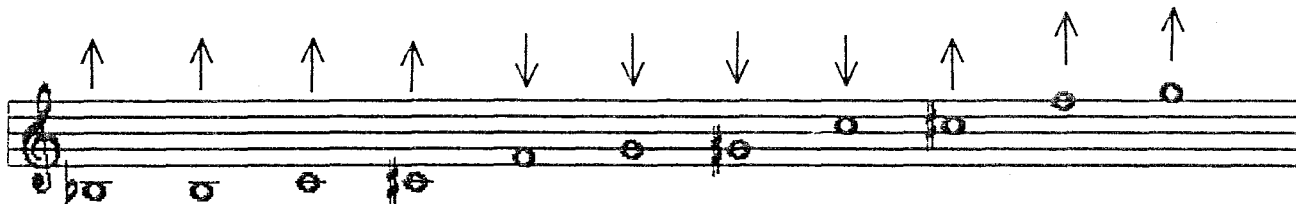


On the oboe only a minimum of adjustment should be made by moving the reed for length adjustment

- Check: The embouchure.
- Check: Reed placement on lips.
- Check: Holding position.

Listen.

Intonation Discrepancies - Bad Notes



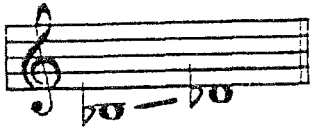
Causes and Remedies for Bad Notes:

- Playing Position** - If the oboe is held at too great an angle with the body (i.e. more than 40 degrees) the overall pitch is flat.
- If the oboe is held too close to the body (i.e. less than 40 degrees) the overall pitch is sharp.
- Reed** - A reed that is too soft may cause overall flatness.
- A reed that is too hard may cause overall sharpness.
- A reed that is too old may make intonation difficult to control.
- Embouchure** - Increasing embouchure pressure around the reed generally raises the pitch.
- Relaxing embouchure pressure around the reed generally lowers the pitch.
- Too much reed in the mouth cause sharpness. Good indication of this is that the half step between third line B and third space C is too wide.
- Sharpness may be caused by too little reed in the mouth
- Too little reed or too much reed in the mouth emphasizes the natural pitch tendencies of the instrument.
- Sharpness may be caused by an embouchure that is excessively firm.
- EE vowel sound with arched tongue will raise the pitch slightly.
- AH or OH vowel with flat tongue sound will lower the pitch slightly.
- Dynamics** - Crescendos may appear to blow flat. To correct: Maintain breath support, slightly increase embouchure pressure, increase the velocity of the air stream.
- Diminuendos may appear to blow sharp. To correct: Maintain breath support, slightly relax lip pressure, decrease velocity of the air stream.
- Mechanical Conditions:** - A clogged vent hole may cause flatness.
- Key openings out of regulation may cause flatness or sharpness.

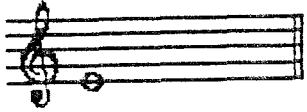
OBOE

Possible Adjustments for Selected Pitch Tendencies

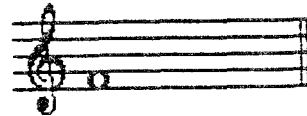
The oboe is usually flat in the low register and sharp in the upper register.



Flat



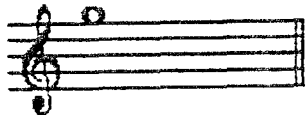
Occasionally flat - Adjust by opening the Eb key to raise.



Occasionally flat - Adjust by using the fork fingering with an optional addition of the right hand Eb key.



Tends to be sharp - Humor the notes down with an open throat and flat tongue.



Occasionally sharp - Alter fingering by using the low B key to lower.



While the embouchure is new and weak, these notes are flat. As the embouchure strengthens these pitches may become sharp. When the embouchure and ear finally mature these pitches may be humored with an open throat and flat tongue.

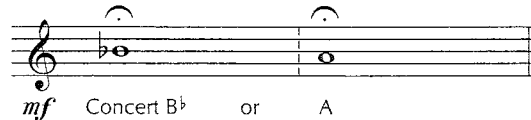
OBOE/ENGLISH HORN TUNING GUIDE

Procedures for Tuning the Instrument(s)

1. Warm up thoroughly before tuning.
2. Tune at a mezzo-forte dynamic level and do not use vibrato.
3. Tune to a reliable frequency (electronic tuner, etc.) using the recommended tuning note(s) below.
4. Do not humor the tuning note; play it straight. Adjust the reed if the pitch is sharp or flat (see below).

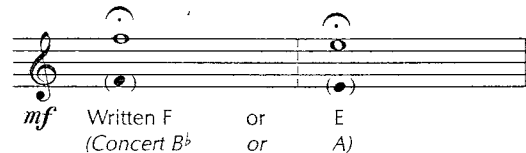
BASIC TUNING NOTE(S)

OBOE



Tuning Mechanism: None. It is not advisable to adjust the overall pitch of the instrument. Oboe tuning is primarily dependent upon good embouchure formation and a properly adjusted reed.

ENGLISH HORN

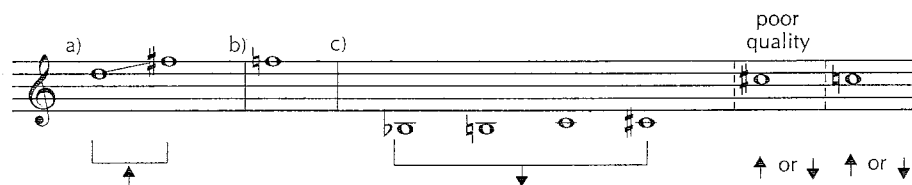


Tuning Mechanism: None. Although English horn tuning is primarily dependent upon good embouchure formation and a properly adjusted reed, it is possible to use bocals of slightly different length to raise or lower the pitch of the instrument.

Techniques for Adjusting Pitches While Playing

1. Amount of Reed in the Mouth and/or Embouchure Pressure
2. Alternate Fingerings
3. Finger Shading
4. Combinations of the Above

INHERENT INTONATION FLAWS*



- a) Add the low B key if these notes are sharp.
- b) Add the E flat key to improve the intonation and tone quality of this note.
- c) The four lowest notes on the oboe tend to be flat. The third space C sharp and C natural tend to be either sharp or flat depending on the instrument, reed, or player. Increase the amount of reed in the mouth and embouchure firmness to raise a pitch; reverse these procedures to lower a pitch.

Be sure that your instrument is properly adjusted and that you have a good quality reed.

*Arrows pointing up indicate that the notes tend to be sharp; arrows pointing down indicate that the notes tend to be flat.

Pitch Tendencies & Adjustments

Oboe

S = Sharp
F = Flat
V = Very

(Notes not addressed are generally acceptable)



Pitch

Tendency

F

VF

F

S

F

S

S

Adjustment

Use RP3
More reed
in mouth

More reed & air
Firm embouchure

More reed & air
Firm embouchure

Add low
R3 key

Regular
fingering R1/R3
RP3

Less reed
Add R3 or RP1



S

VS

S

S

F

S

S

Add R3 & RP1

Use less reed
Add RP1 or
R1, R2 & R3

Less reed

Add LP2 or
Low Bb key if
available

Add RP3 Use
R1 & R3
only

Add LP2



F

F

VF

VS

F

S

Use more reed
Add adjusting key
Such as LP1
Experiment

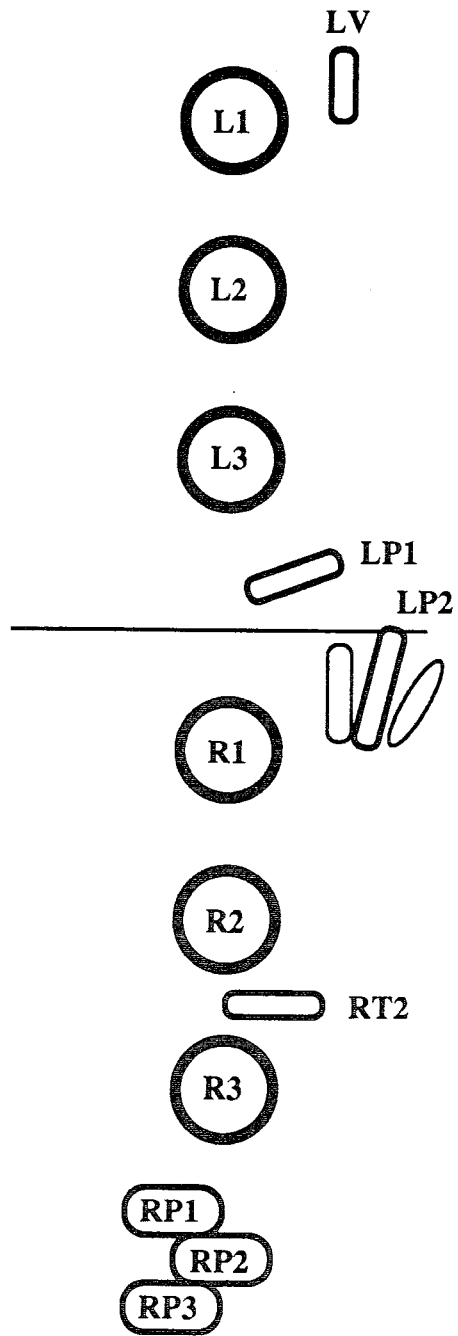
Use more reed
Add adjusting
key - experiment

Use more reed
Add adjusting
key - experiment

Add LP2

Multiple fingerings Available
depending on instrument
Experiment

Oboe



OBOE/ENGLISH HORN INTONATION CHART

Name _____ Date _____

Instrument Make and Model _____

Carefully follow the procedures outlined in the Tuning Guide for your instrument before beginning to chart your intonation with a friend. Your teacher should provide an Intonation Charting Guidesheet with instructions on how to use an electronic tuner. Mark intonation discrepancies for lower octave scales below the staff.

Tuning Notes

OBOE

mf Concert B \flat or A

ENGLISH HORN

mf Written F or E
(Concert B \flat or A)

Chromatic Scale

Major Scales

Harmonic Minor Scales

Pitch Tendencies of Dynamics

mf *pp* *ff* < > *pp* *ff* < > *pp* *ff* < >