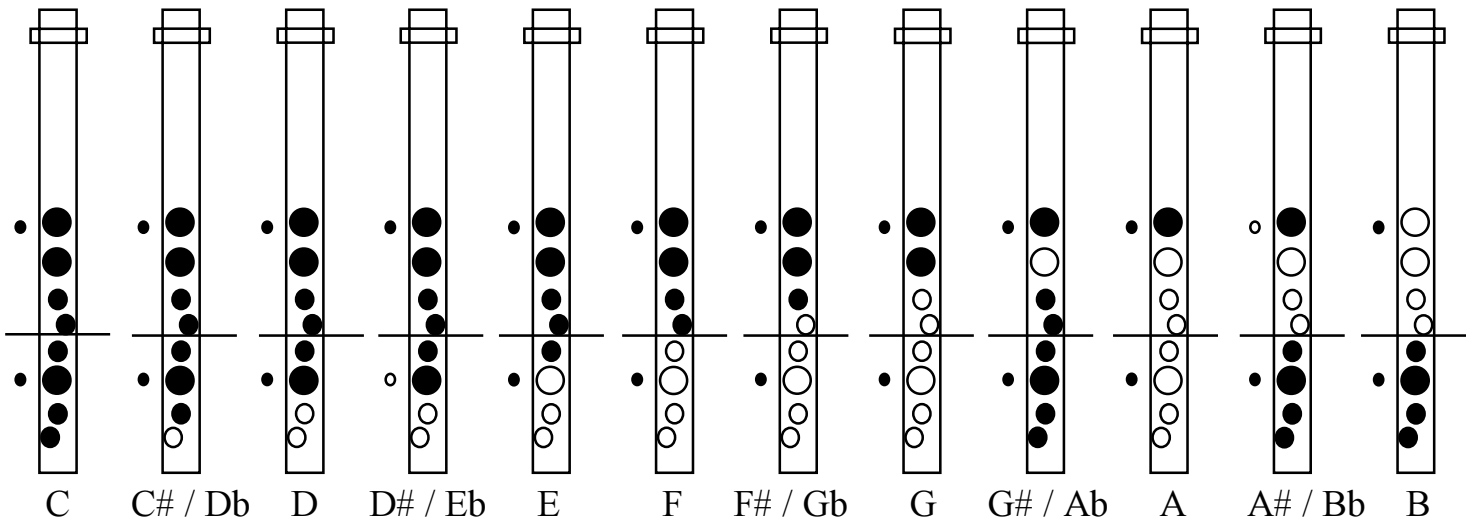


# Sopilka



A sopilka is a hand-carved wooden flute with six to ten holes and a flat mouthpiece. It is a popular Ukrainian folk instrument with several different varieties, depending on the region where it is made. The sopilka is typically played by shepherds and mountain dwellers.



This is the lower octave of the sopilka. The left hand fingers the holes above the line, and the right hand fingers below the line (thumbs on small holes underneath the body). The fingerings for the next octave up are the same, with the exception of the high G# (see below, first high G# fingering). A looser jaw and more rounded mouth produce the lower notes, while a tighter, more focused mouth shape produces the higher notes from the same fingering.

To get a good sound, use lots of air. A slower stream of air makes the notes softer, while a faster stream makes them louder, but, fast or slow, it should always be a full stream.

Tongueing (saying the syllable “toh” when starting a note) allows more control of note length, rhythm, and pitch. It is best for your tongue to hit the roof of your mouth where the teeth meet the gums.

Some alternate fingerings:

