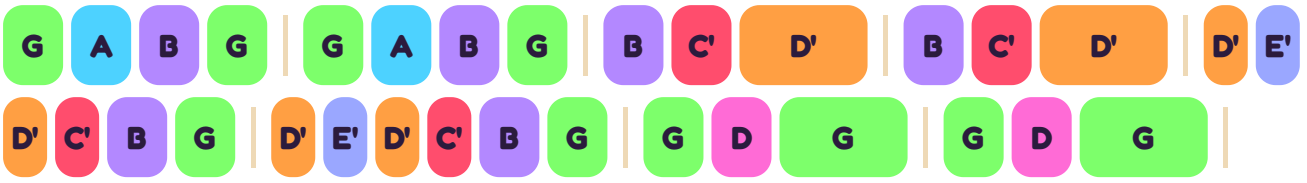
A little challenge

How to play Frère Jacques on the recorder

Frère Jacques recorder notes with letters, for beginners, with a fingering chart for each note.

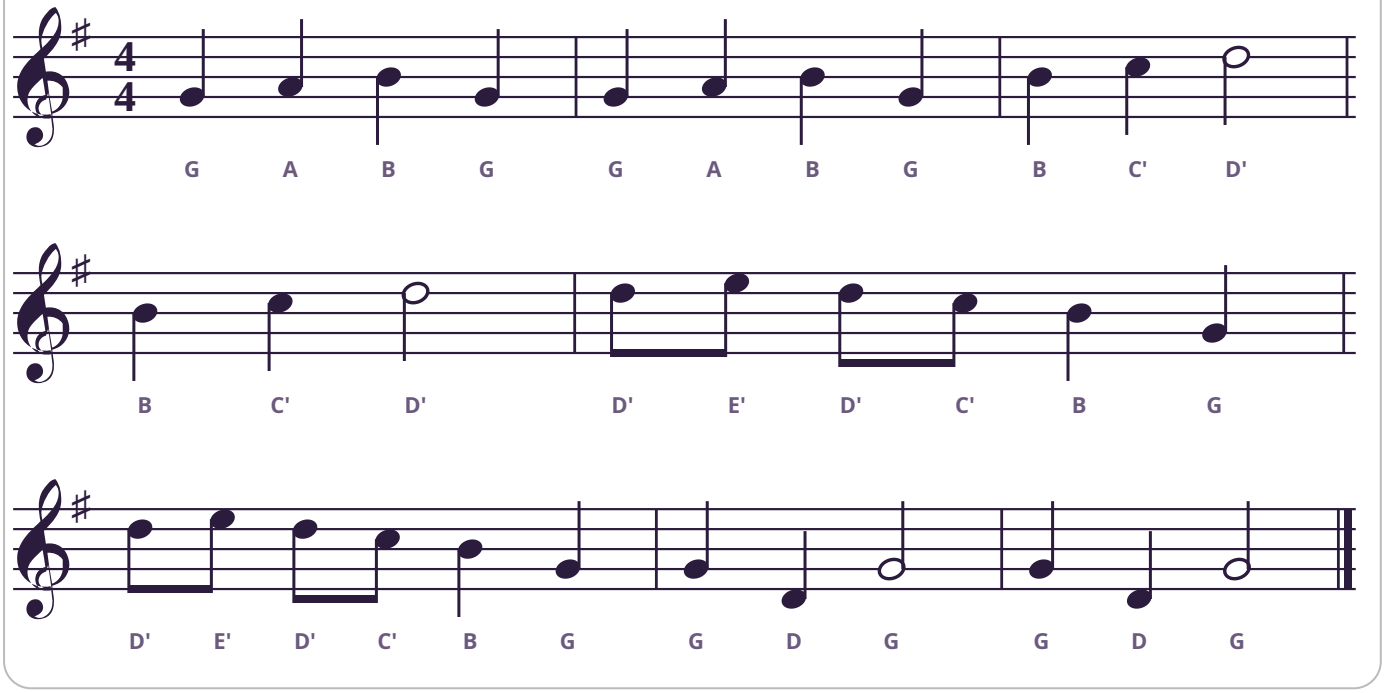
The French round about a sleepy brother: try it with a friend, starting two bars apart. It reaches all the way down to low D, and up to high E for the morning bells. It uses 7 notes: low D, G, A, B, high C, high D and high E. Below are the notes with their rhythm, and the fingering for each one.

The notes



Longer blocks are longer notes; a line marks each bar.

Sheet music



The same song in standard notation, with each note's name under it.

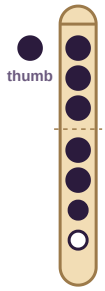
The notes as letters

G A B G G A B G B C' D' B C' D' D' E' D' C' B G

D' E' D' C' B G G D G G D G

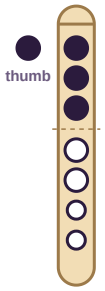
C', D' and E' are the high C, high D and high E. All for a soprano (descant) recorder, with baroque (English) fingering.

Fingerings



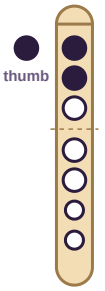
low D

Thumb hole covered, holes 1 2 3 4 5 6 covered



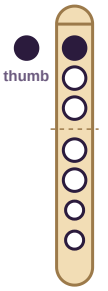
G

Thumb hole covered, holes 1 2 3 covered



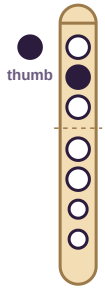
A

Thumb hole covered, holes 1 2 covered



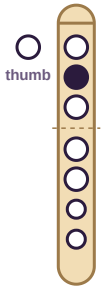
B

Thumb hole covered, hole 1 covered



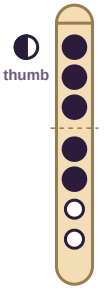
high C

Thumb hole covered, hole 2 covered



high D

Thumb hole open, hole 2 covered



high E

Thumb hole half covered (pinched), holes 1 2 3 4 5 covered

Tap Play to hear a note; tap a fingering card to see how to play it. Filled holes are covered. The left hand is on top (thumb behind, holes 1–3), the right hand below (holes 4–7).

Tips

- Say "doo" into the recorder for each note: the tongue starts every note, so repeated notes sound separate.
- Blow gently, like cooling soup. Too much air makes a squeak an octave up.
- Cover the holes with the soft pads of your fingers, not the tips, so no air leaks out.

- Low D needs the gentlest breath of all, and every hole sealed: if it squeaks, check your bottom fingers first.
- High D has the thumb hole open and only hole 2 covered: just your left middle finger holds it.
- High E needs a "pinched" thumb: bend your left thumb so its nail half-covers the thumb hole, leaving a small gap at the top, with holes 1 to 5 covered as for low E.
- For high C, lift your first finger (hole 1) and keep the thumb and hole 2 covered.