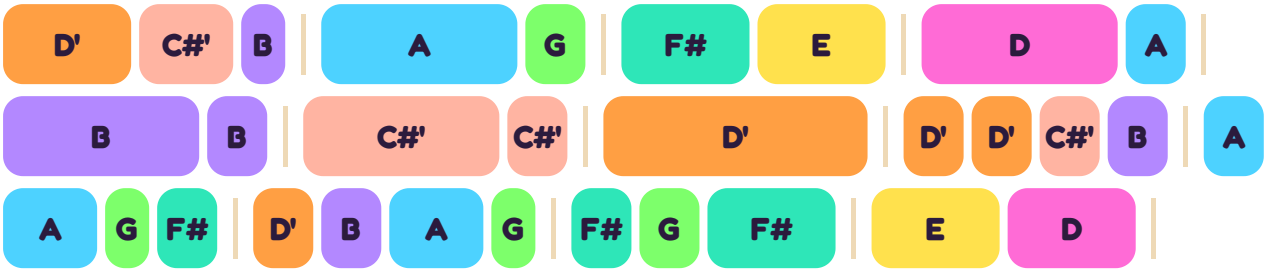
A little challenge

How to play Joy to the World on the recorder

Joy to the World recorder notes with letters, for beginners, with a fingering chart for each note.

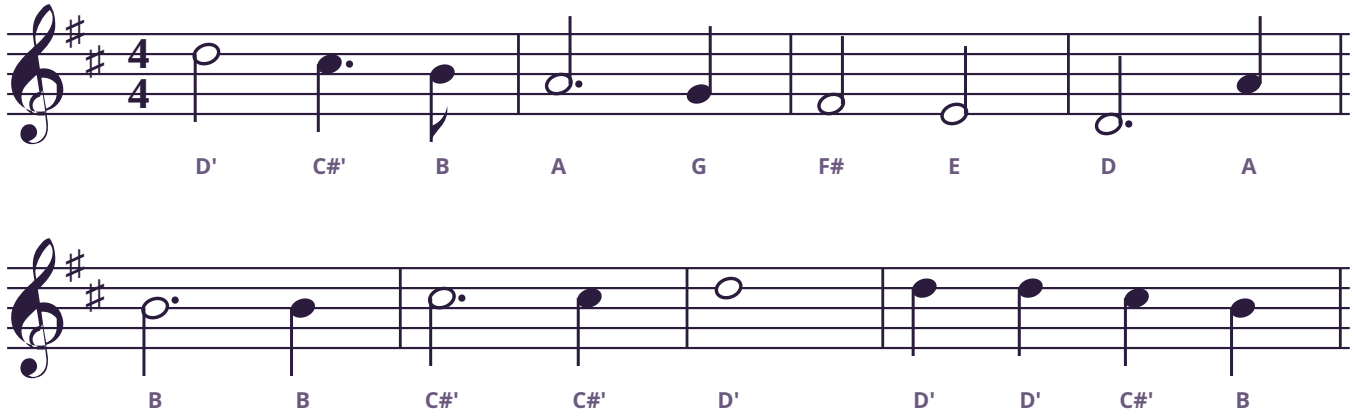
The Christmas carol by Isaac Watts (1719), to a tune arranged by Lowell Mason in 1839. Its first line walks straight down the scale from high D to low D, through high C#. It uses 8 notes: low D, low E, F#, G, A, B, high C# and high D. Below are the notes with their rhythm, and the fingering for each one.

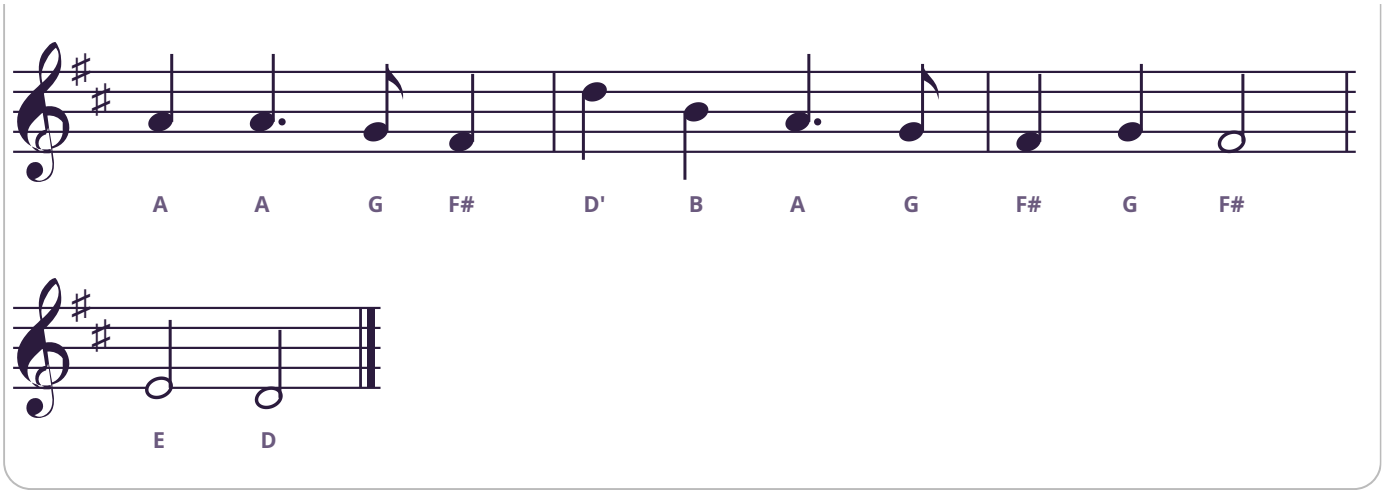
The notes



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

Sheet music





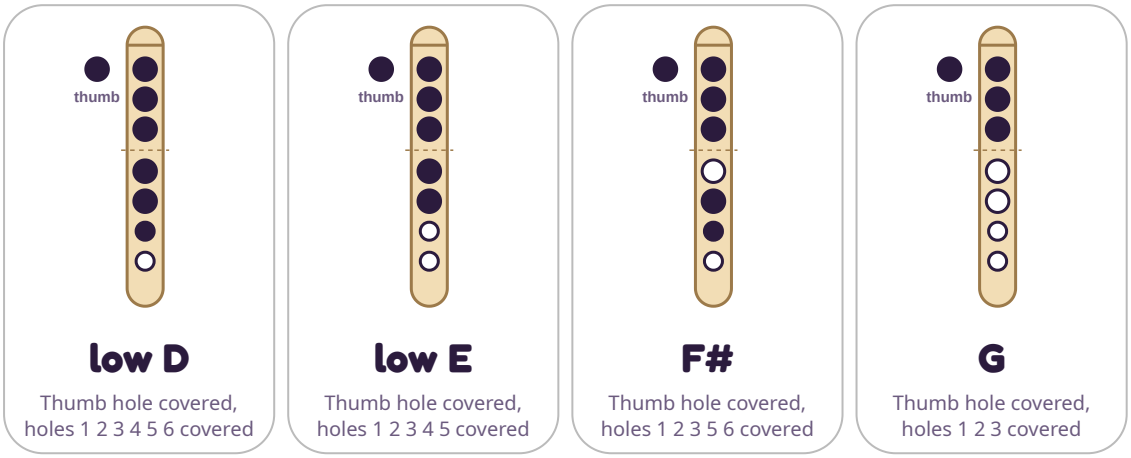
The same song in standard notation, with each note's name under it.

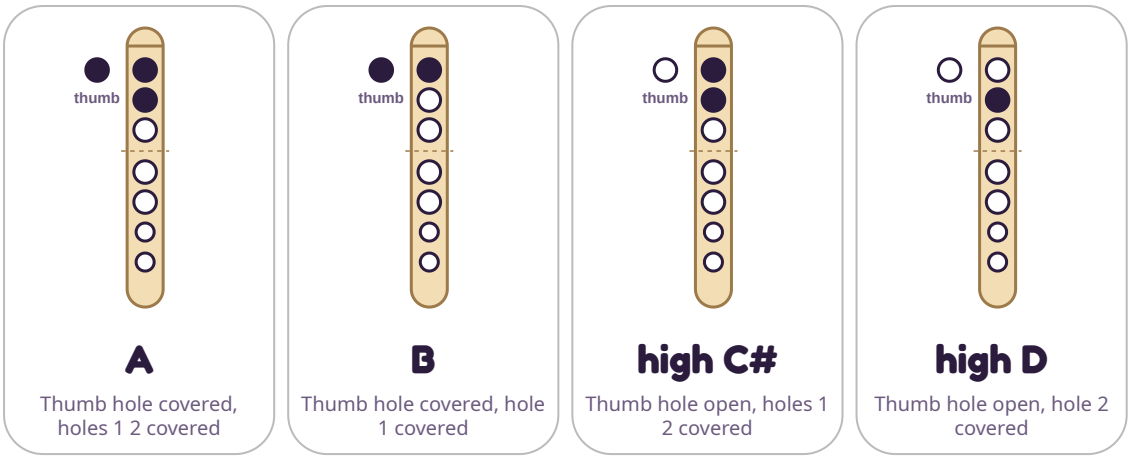
The notes as letters

D' C#' B A G F# E D A B B C#' C#' D' D' D' C#' B
A A G F# D' B A G F# G F# E D

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

Fingerings





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.
- F# is a "forked" fingering: cover the thumb and holes 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6, leaving hole 4 open.
- High D has the thumb hole open and only hole 2 covered: just your left middle finger holds it.
- High C# has the thumb hole open, with holes 1 and 2 covered: it's high D plus your pointer finger.