A little challenge

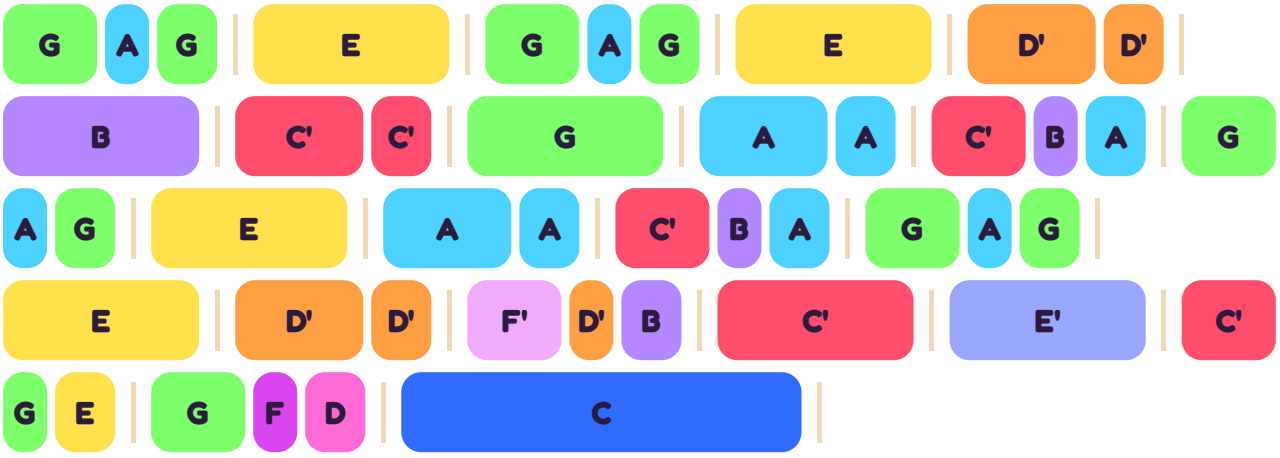
How to play Silent Night on the recorder

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht

Silent Night recorder notes with letters, for beginners, with a fingering chart for each note.

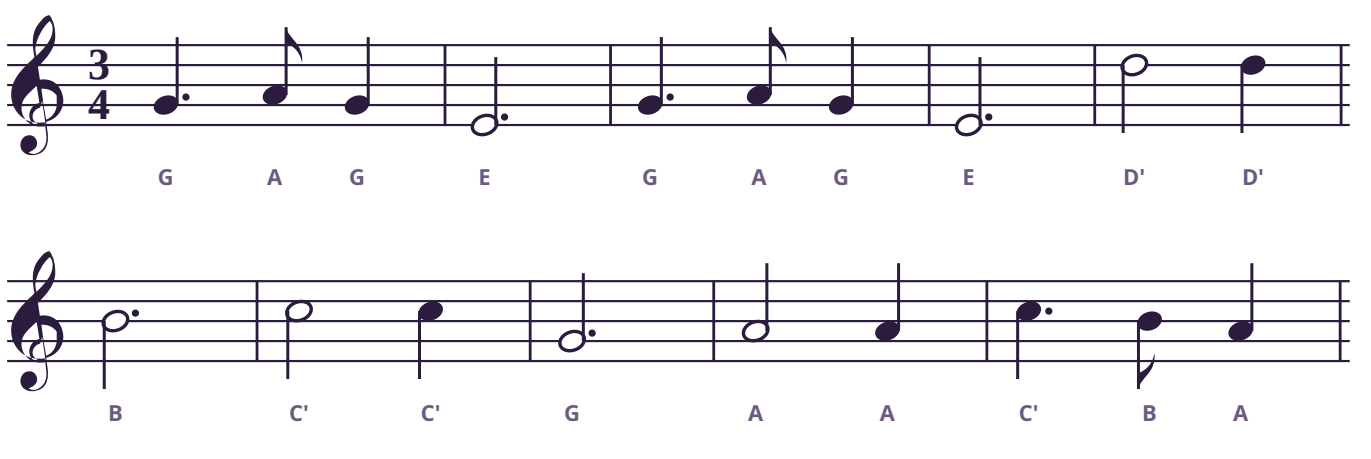
Franz Xaver Gruber's carol, first sung in Austria in 1818. A slow, rocking three-beat song that reaches up to high F near the end. It uses 11 notes: low C, low D, low E, F, G, A, B, high C, high D, high E and high F. Below are the notes with their rhythm, and the fingering for each one.

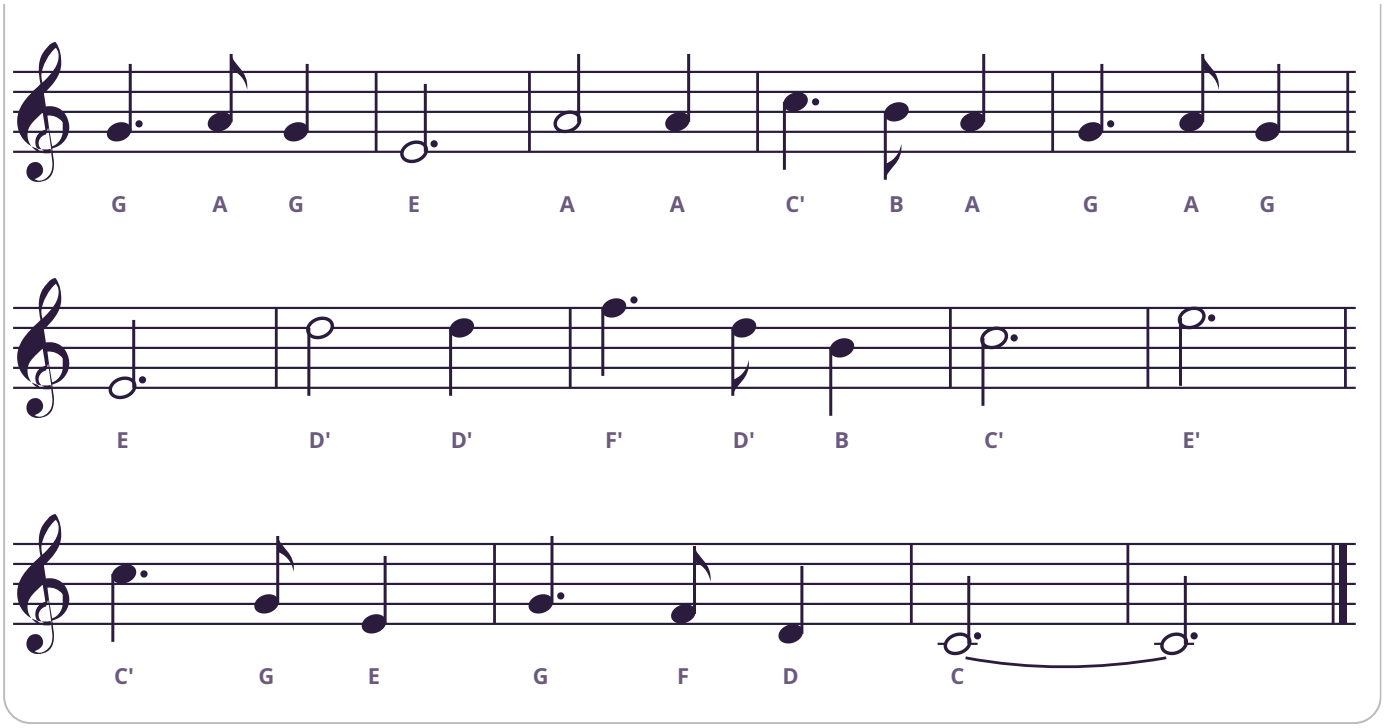
The notes



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

Sheet music





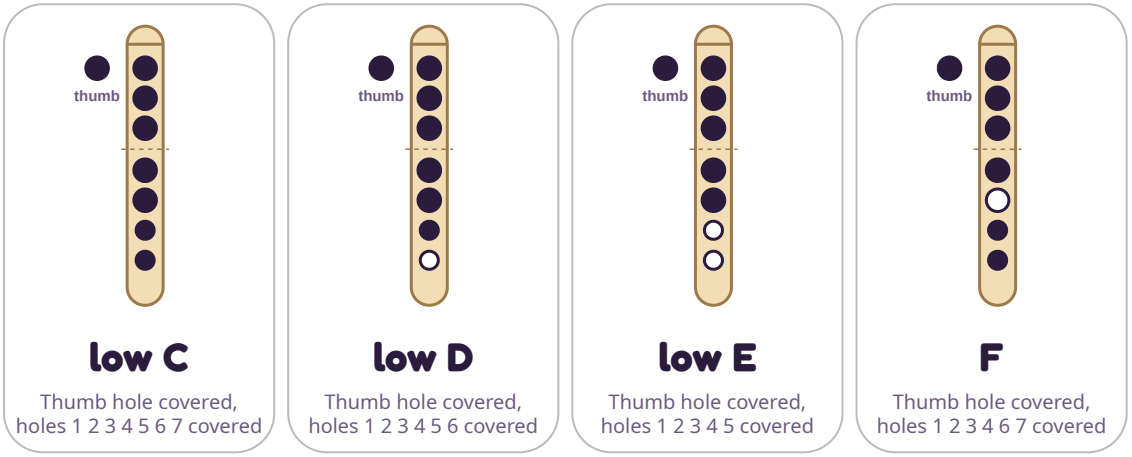
The same song in standard notation, with each note's name under it.

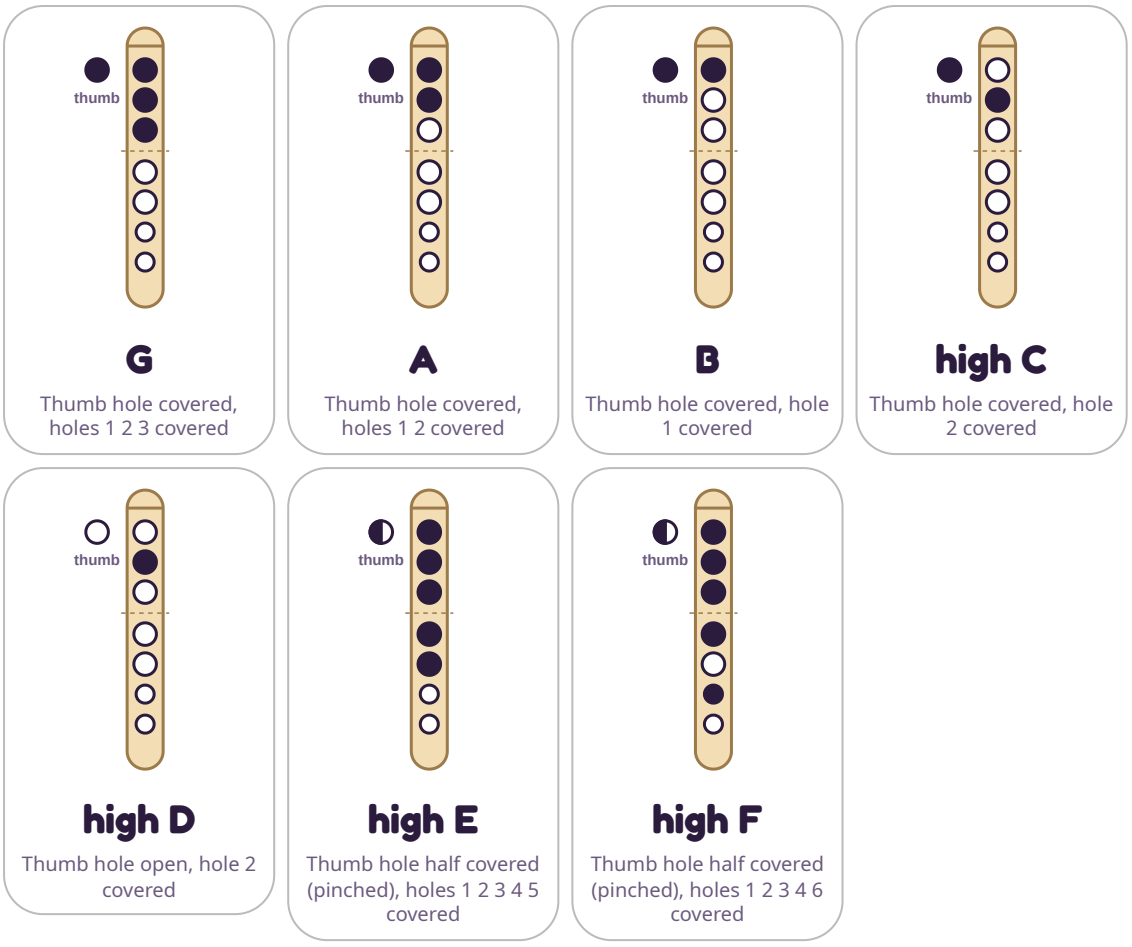
The notes as letters

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

C', D', E' and F' are the high C, high D, high E and high F. 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 C needs the gentlest breath of all, and every hole sealed: if it squeaks, check your bottom fingers first.
- F has two fingerings: on a baroque recorder it's forked (thumb and holes 1 to 4, 6 and 7, with hole 5 open); on a German recorder, just the thumb and holes 1 to 4.
- High D has the thumb hole open and only hole 2 covered: just your left middle finger holds it.
- Pinched thumb for high F, like high E: keep a small gap at the top of the thumb hole and blow steadily.
- 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.