A little challenge

How to play Yankee Doodle on the recorder

Yankee Doodle recorder notes with letters, for beginners, with a fingering chart for each note.

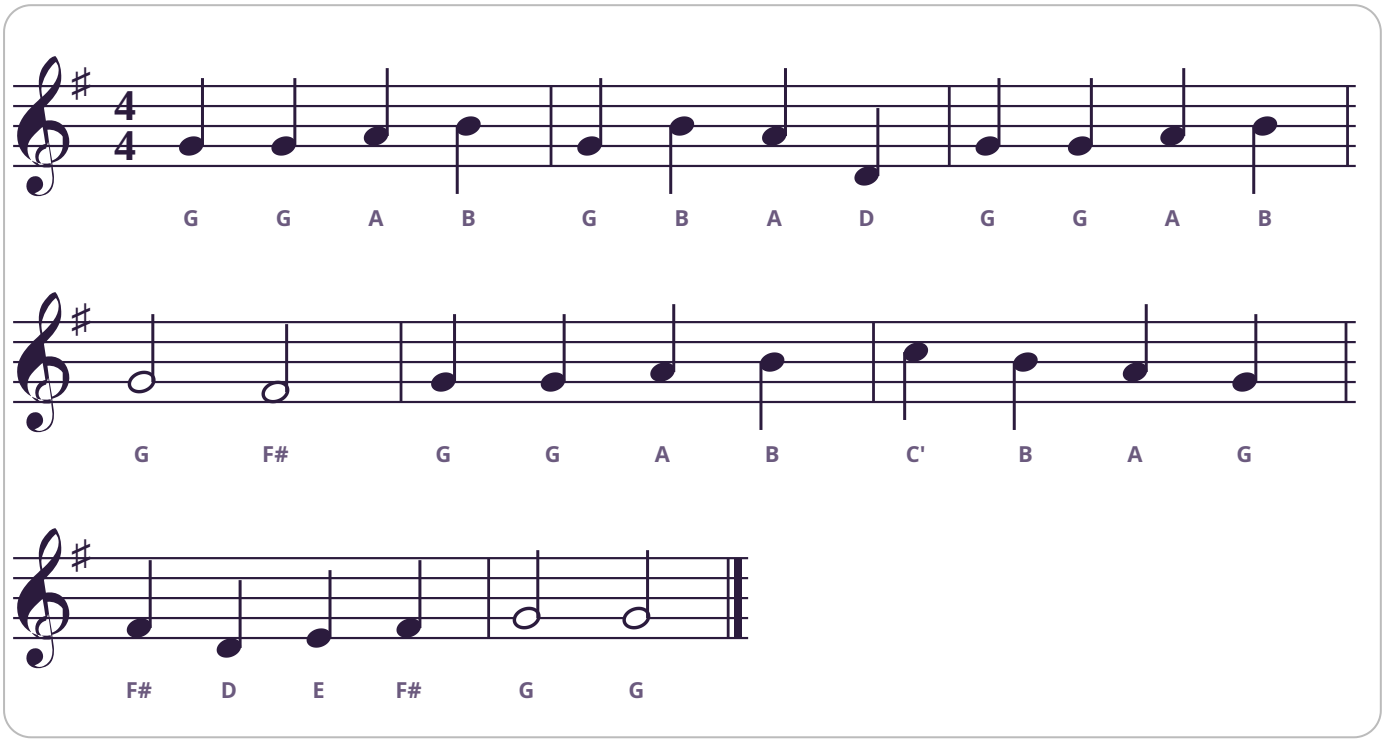
The American song from the 1700s. It's quick and bouncy, and uses F#, which has a special forked fingering. It uses 7 notes: low D, low E, F#, G, A, B and high C. Below are the notes with their rhythm, and the fingering for each one.

The notes



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

Sheet music



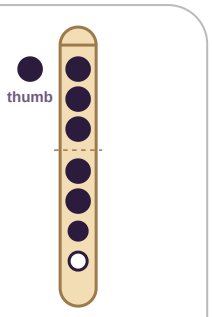
The same song in standard notation, with each note's name under it.

The notes as letters

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

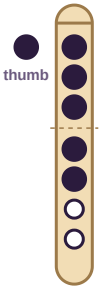
C' is the high C. All for a soprano (descant) recorder, with baroque (English) fingering.

Fingerings



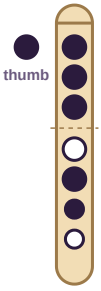
low D

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



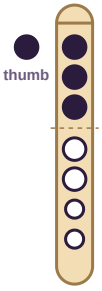
low E

Thumb hole covered, holes 1 2 3 4 5 covered



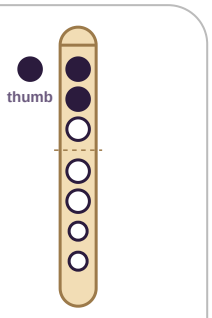
F#

Thumb hole covered, holes 1 2 3 5 6 covered



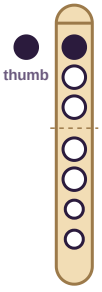
G

Thumb hole covered, holes 1 2 3 covered



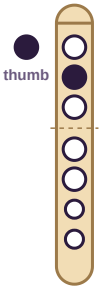
A

Thumb hole covered, holes 1 2 covered



B

Thumb hole covered, hole 1 covered



high C

Thumb hole covered, hole 2 covered

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.
- For high C, lift your first finger (hole 1) and keep the thumb and hole 2 covered.