

REGISTER NOTES FOR OBOE

1ST OCTAVE KEY

If you have been working on your yellow award and / or approaching grade one, you need to be able to play the register notes using the first octave key.

The first octave key on the oboe is just above your thumb plate at back of the instrument, and you play it by rolling the edge of the thumb upwards to push it down.



You use the first octave key to play the higher E, F, F# and G. Try playing bottom E, then push the octave key down (still keeping the thumb plate down), and you should get the high E.

Have a go at playing these notes.



If the notes still sound low when you push the octave key down, try squeezing a tiny bit more with your lips. You could imagine that the corners of your mouth are moving towards your ears.

Once you feel more confident with those notes, try playing the exercise below which gets you used to moving from the lower notes to the first octave register.

WARM UP

The image shows two staves of musical notation. The top staff is labeled 'Oboe' and the bottom staff is labeled 'Ob.'. Both staves are in 4/4 time. The Oboe staff contains four measures of music: a half note G4, a half note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note D5, a quarter note E5, a quarter note F5, a quarter note G5, a quarter note F5, a quarter note E5, a quarter note D5, and a half note C5. The Ob. staff contains four measures of music: a half note G3, a half note A3, a quarter note B3, a quarter note C4, a quarter note D4, a quarter note E4, a quarter note F4, a quarter note G4, a quarter note F4, a quarter note E4, a quarter note D4, and a half note C4. A '6' is written above the first measure of the Ob. staff.

If you are finding this easy, you might try slurring each bar. See if you can move between the notes without any squeaks!

Now that you are more familiar with the first octave key notes, can you work out what this tune is?

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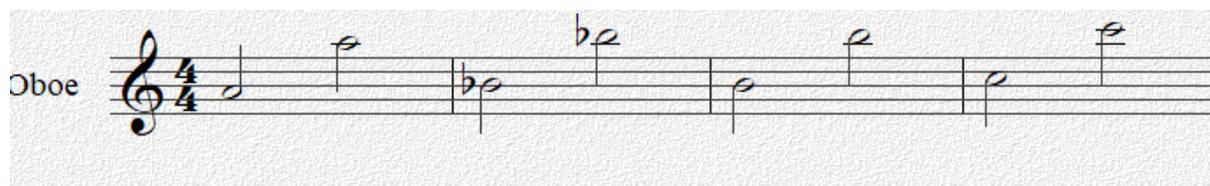
2ND OCTAVE KEY

As you move towards grade 2, you will need to become familiar with the notes played with the 2nd octave key. The 2nd octave key is found at side of the top joint.



You use the 2nd octave key to play top A, B flat (A#), B and C.

Try playing the lower notes, then see if you can get the higher notes with the 2nd octave key.



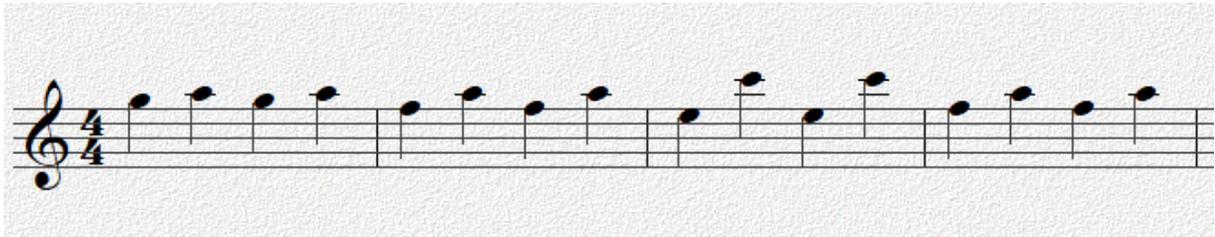
These notes can be extremely difficult to play in tune. Try and listen to the low notes carefully so that you can imagine what the higher notes will sound like. The A, B flat and B have a tendency to go flat, whilst the top C might go a bit sharp, depending on your instrument.

If the A is very flat, don't forget to use your diaphragm, and squeeze a tiny bit with your lips. Be careful that you are not biting down on the reed.

These notes can create quite a bit of pressure in your head. If you are feeling dizzy, do stop!

WARM UP

Now try this exercise going from the 1st octave notes to the 2nd. It can take a bit of time feeling getting a smooth movement between the two keys.



Finally, try a C major scale –

