

# Fingering Scheme for Bassoon

## German-System (Heckel) Models

### Left Thumb Keys

- **Bb · Low Bb key**
- **B · Low B key**
- **C · Low C key**
- **D · Low D key**

These four keys form the lower row of left thumb keys and are used for the lowest notes of the bassoon range. The Bb key is the uppermost key in the row, followed downward by the low B, low C, and low D keys.

- **d · D flick key**
- **b · B flick key**
- **a · A flick key**

The three flick keys are the upper three keys in the upper row of left thumb keys. The D flick key is located at the top of the row, followed below by the B and A flick keys. These keys are used to improve response of A<sub>3</sub>, Bb<sub>3</sub>, B<sub>3</sub>, C<sub>4</sub>, and D<sub>4</sub> in slurs by depressing them and then releasing once the note has responded.

- **C# · C# thumb key**
- **W · Whisper key**

The C# thumb key is the fourth thumb key in the upper row of left thumb keys. The key is used primarily for playing C# in the lower and middle registers.

The whisper key is located at the lower end of the upper row of left thumb keys. The key is used as a vent for notes in the lower middle register..

### Left Hand Main Holes and Keys

- **1 · First finger hole (E)**
- **2 · Second finger hole (D)**
- **3 · Third finger key (C)**

### Left Hand Sliver Keys

- **eb · Eb sliver key**

The Eb sliver key is located between the first and second finger holes of the left

- hand and is used to play Eb<sub>5</sub>.
- **e · E sliver key**  
The E sliver key is located above the first finger hole of the left hand.

## Left Hand Little Finger (Pinky) Keys

- **Eb · Eb key**  
The Eb little finger key is located next to the left hand third finger key and is used to play Eb<sub>2</sub>, Eb<sub>3</sub>, and several upper register notes.
- **C# · C# key**  
The C# little finger key is located below the Eb little finger key and is used for trills involving C#.

## Right Hand Thumb Keys

- **Bb · Bb thumb key**
  - **E · E thumb key**
  - **F# · F# thumb key**
  - **G# · G# thumb key**
- These keys are the four right thumb keys, listed from top to bottom. The Bb and E keys are used to play Bb and E as well as several other notes. The F# and G# keys are used primarily for playing F# and G#.

## Right Hand Main Holes

- **1 · First finger hole (B)**
- **2 · Second finger hole (A)**
- **3 · Third finger key (G)**

## Right Hand Sliver Keys

- **Bb · Bb key**  
The Bb key is located between the second and third finger keys of the right hand and is used to play Bb<sub>2</sub> and Bb<sub>3</sub>.

## Right Hand Little Finger (Pinky) Keys

- **F · Low F key**  
The Low F key is the middle key of the group of three right hand little finger keys. It is used primarily for playing the lower register and for various other notes.
- **F# · F# key**

- The F# key is next to the low F key and is adjacent to the right hand third finger key. It is used primarily for playing F# in the first two octaves.
- **G# · G# key**  
The G# key is the key located farthest from the left hand keys, next to the low F key. It is used as an alternative to the thumb G# key.

## Bassoon Fingerings

The numbers 1, 2, and 3 are used to represent main holes to be closed while a dash (–) is used to indicate a main hole to remain open. Venting is indicated by the fractions  $\frac{1}{4}$  (mostly vented),  $\frac{1}{2}$  (half vented), and  $\frac{3}{4}$  (slightly vented). Left thumb keys are shown first, followed by left hand holes, a pipe (|) to separate hands, right thumb keys, and finally right hand holes.

123|1—  
W 1–3|Bb –2–  
W  $\frac{1}{2}$ 23|12–

Little finger (pinky) keys and sliver keys are shown as superscripts in the left hand and subscripts in the right hand at the position the keys are located.

123|12<sub>Bb</sub>–  
–23<sup>Eb</sup>|Bb 12–  
D 123<sup>Eb</sup>|E 123<sub>F</sub>  
W 123|E<sub>C#</sub>—F

Keys to be trilled are indicated in **boldface text**.

# Basic Fingerings for Bassoon

German-System (Heckel) Models



Low Register

Bb<sub>1</sub> to E<sub>2</sub>

Lower Middle  
Register

F<sub>2</sub> to F<sub>3</sub>








Upper Middle  
Register

F#<sub>3</sub> to D<sub>4</sub>

Upper  
Register


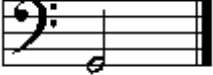

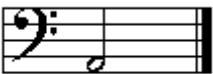

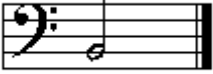
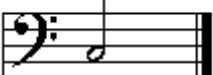

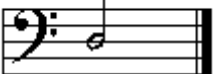
Eb<sub>4</sub> to Bb<sub>4</sub>

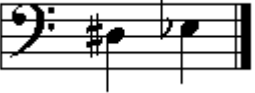
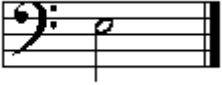
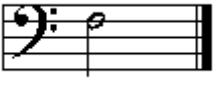
## Lower Register

Note	Written	Fingering	Description
Bb <sub>1</sub>		Bb 123 E 123 <sub>F</sub>	Basic.
B <sub>1</sub>		B 123 E 123 <sub>F</sub>	Basic.
C <sub>2</sub>		C 123 E 123 <sub>F</sub>	Basic.
C# <sub>2</sub>		C 123 <sup>C#</sup>  E 123 <sub>F</sub>	Basic.
D <sub>2</sub>		D 123 E 123 <sub>F</sub>	Basic.
Eb <sub>2</sub>		D 123 <sup>Eb</sup>  E 123 <sub>F</sub>	Basic.
E <sub>2</sub>		W 123 E 123 <sub>F</sub>	Basic.


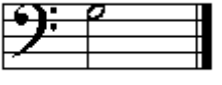

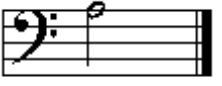

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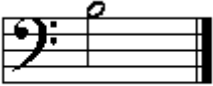
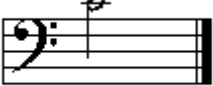


## Lower Middle Register

Note	Written	Fingering	Descriptions
F <sub>2</sub>		W 123 123 <sub>F</sub>	Basic.
F# <sub>2</sub>		W 123 F# 123	Basic.
		W 123 123 <sub>F#</sub>	Use in combination with fingerings using the right thumb.
G <sub>2</sub>		W 123 123	Basic.
G# <sub>2</sub>		W 123 123 <sub>G#</sub>	Basic.
		W 123 G# 123	Use in combination with fingerings using the right little finger.
A <sub>2</sub>		W 123 12-	Basic.
Bb <sub>2</sub>		W 123 Bb 12-	Basic.
		W 123 12 <sub>Bb</sub> -	Use in combination with fingerings not using RH 3.
B <sub>2</sub>		W 123 1-	Basic.
C <sub>3</sub>		W 123 ---	Basic.
C# <sub>3</sub>		D C# W 123 ---	Basic.
D <sub>3</sub>		W 12- ---	Basic.



Eb <sub>3</sub>		W 1-3 <sup>Eb</sup>  Bb -2-	Basic.
		C# W 12- —	Trill fingering with D <sub>3</sub> .
		W 1-3 —	Use in combination with E <sub>3</sub> .
		W 1-3 Bb -2-	Great for <i>pp</i> .
E <sub>3</sub>		W 1- —	Basic.
F <sub>3</sub>		W — —	Basic.

## Upper Middle Register







Note	Written	Fingering	Description
F# <sub>3</sub>		W 1/4 23 F# 123	Basic, leave more than half of LH 1 hole open.
		W 1/4 23 123 F#	Use in combination with fingerings using the right thumb.
G <sub>3</sub>		W 1/2 23 123	Basic, cover about half of LH 1 hole.
G# <sub>3</sub>		W 3/4 23 123 G#	Basic, cover more than half of LH 1 hole.
		W 3/4 23 G# 123	Use in combination with fingerings using the right little finger.
A <sub>3</sub>		123 12-	Basic.
		a 123 12-	Flick fingering for slurs.
Bb <sub>3</sub>		123 Bb 12-	Basic.
		a 123 Bb 12-	Flick fingering for slurs.
		b 123 Bb 12-	Flick fingering for slurs.

		123 12 <sub>Bb</sub> -	Use in combination with fingerings not using RH 3.
		a 123 12 <sub>Bb</sub> -	Use in combination with fingerings not using RH 3, flick fingering for slurs.
		b 123 12 <sub>Bb</sub> -	Use in combination with fingerings not using RH 3, flick fingering for slurs.
B <sub>3</sub>		123 1—	Basic.
		b 123 1—	Flick fingering for slurs.
C <sub>4</sub>		123 —	Basic.
		b 123 —	Flick fingering for slurs.
C# <sub>4</sub>		D C# 123 —	Basic.
		C# 123 —23 <sub>F</sub>	For slurs.
D <sub>4</sub>		12- —	Basic.
		d 12- —	Flick fingering for slurs.
		b 12- —	Flick fingering for slurs.

## Upper Register

Note	Written	Fingering	Description
E <sub>b4</sub>		12- 123	Basic.
E <sub>4</sub>		1-3 <sup>E<sub>b</sub></sup>  123	Basic.



F <sub>4</sub>		1-3 <sup>Eb</sup>  12-	Basic.
F# <sub>4</sub>		-23 <sup>Eb</sup>  Bb 12-	Basic.
G <sub>4</sub>		W 1/2 23 <sup>Eb</sup>  1-F	Basic.
G# <sub>4</sub>		W 3/4 23 <sup>Eb</sup>  —3	Basic.
A <sub>4</sub>		a C# 123 <sup>Eb</sup>  —3	Basic.
Bb <sub>4</sub>		a C# 123 <sup>Eb</sup>  12-F	Basic.