

# Bassoon

## ***Basic Tuning Rules***

1. *Make sure you have warmed up for at least 5 minutes before tuning.*
2. *Use your best embouchure and make sure you play with your best tone quality.*
3. *Play your tuning note at a mezzo forte dynamic level.*
4. *Do not use any vibrato while tuning.*

## **Best Tuning Notes**



Approach the Bb by walking up the scale to help center the pitch. Bb is a great tuning note for the full band.

A is your best tuning note. Use this when tuning alone or with other woodwind instruments.

## **How to Tune the Bassoon**

The pitch on the bassoon is entirely dependent on the quality of the reed, the size of the bocal, and the support of the embouchure. For this reason, it is very important that you always have excellent quality reeds, use the bocal that was provided to you, and use the best embouchure support as possible. A good quality reed with the correct tip opening will produce a double crow when played with proper embouchure support.

*\* You may see musicians on other instruments adjusting the length of their instrument to tune. Do not pull out on your reed or adjust the cork on your bocal! The bassoon was designed to play in tune with the reed pushed all the way on to the bocal and the bocal hole lined up with the whisper key pad.*

## **How to Adjust the Pitch**

To adjust the pitch on individual notes, double reed players will use their embouchure to fix the pitch.

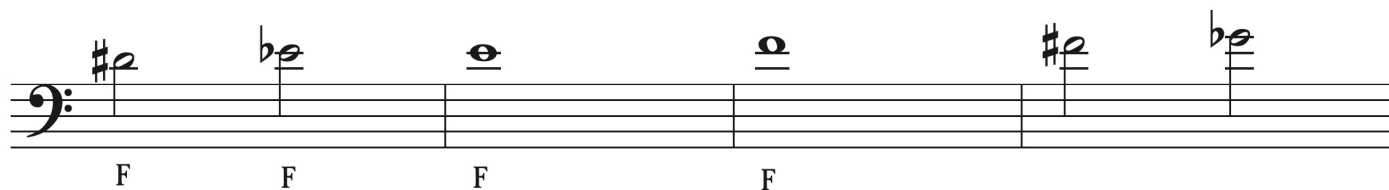
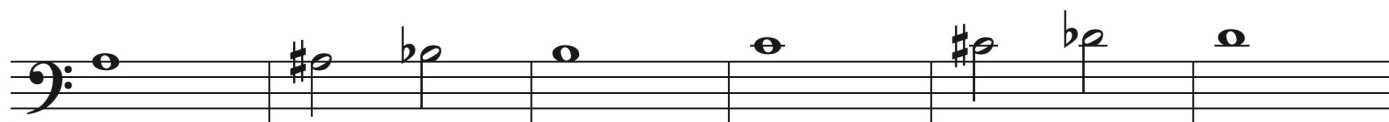
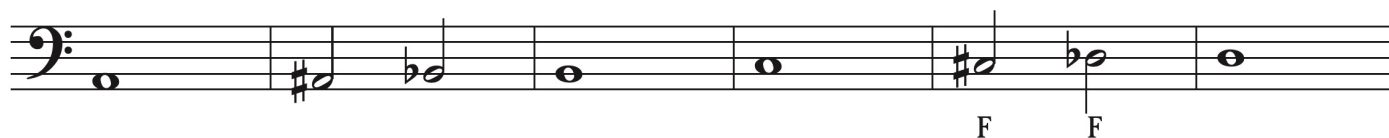
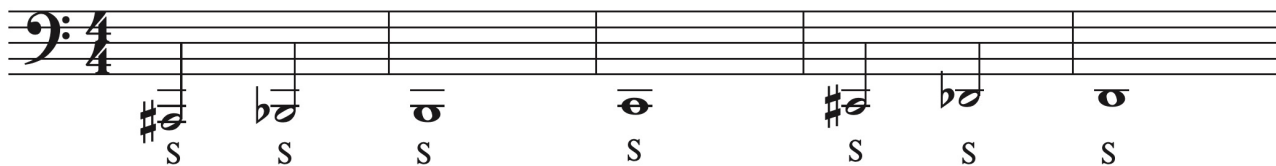
1. If you are sharp - relax the embouchure or take slightly less reed into the mouth.
2. If you are flat - firm up the embouchure or take slightly more reed into the mouth.
3. If you are playing loud - crescendos have a tendency to play flat.
4. If you are playing soft - decrescendos have a tendency to play sharp.

*\* If you are flat or sharp throughout the range of the instrument, make sure that your embouchure is not pinched or overly loose. If there are still pitch issues, see your teacher and they will help you adjust the thickness and tip opening of your reed or change the length of your bocal.*

# Bassoon Pitch Tendencies

## Abbreviations

VF - Very Flat    F - Flat    S - Sharp    VS - Very Sharp



While these pitch tendencies are common for most bassoons, each individual instrument can vary. It is important to spend time with a tuner on your own instrument to learn its unique characteristics.

# Bassoon Warmups

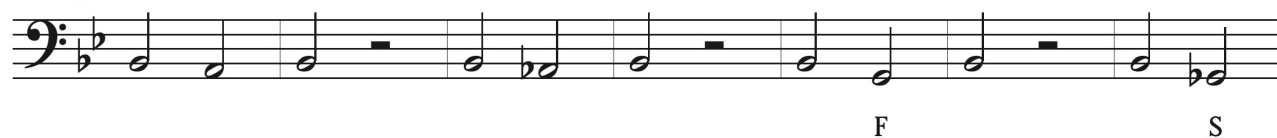
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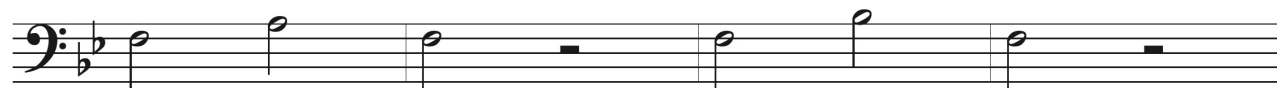
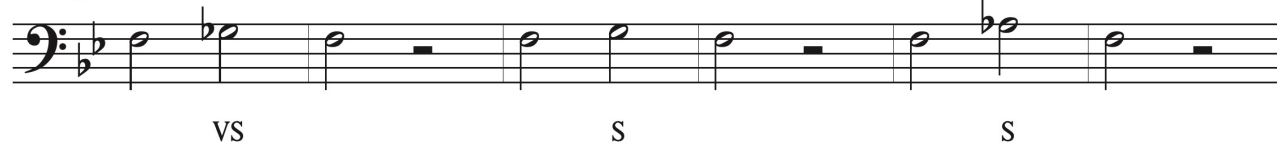
### Long Tone 1a



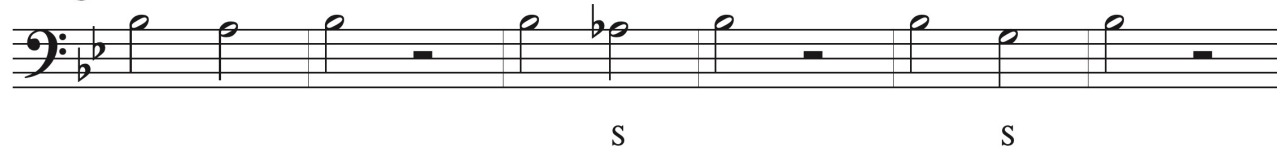
### Long Tone 1b



### Long Tone 1c



### Long Tone 1d



# Bassoon Warmups

## Abbreviations

VF - Very Flat    F - Flat    S - Sharp    VS - Very Sharp

### Long Tone 3a

The musical notation for Long Tone 3a consists of five staves in bass clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The notation includes various accidentals and dynamic markings (VF, F, S) indicating specific pitch bends or adjustments.

Staff 1: Bass clef, key signature of two flats. Notes: B2 (half), B2 (half), B2 (half), B2 (half), B2 (half), B2 (half). Markings: VF (under B2), F (under B2), S (under B2).

Staff 2: Bass clef, key signature of two flats. Notes: B2 (half), B2 (half), B2 (half), B2 (half), B2 (half), B2 (half). Marking: S (under B2).

Staff 3: Bass clef, key signature of two flats. Notes: B2 (half), B2 (half), B2 (half), B2 (half), B2 (half), B2 (half). Marking: F (under B2).

Staff 4: Bass clef, key signature of two flats. Notes: B2 (half), B2 (half), B2 (half), B2 (half), B2 (half), B2 (half). Marking: F (under B2).

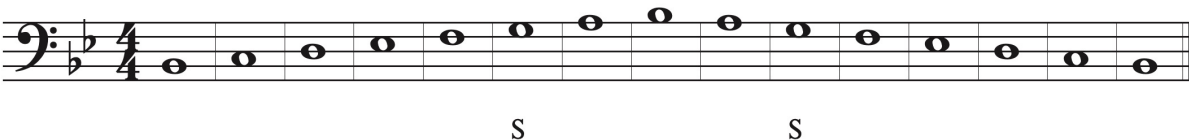
Staff 5: Bass clef, key signature of two flats. Notes: B2 (half), B2 (half), B2 (half), B2 (half), B2 (half), B2 (half). Marking: F (under B2).

# Bassoon Major Scales

<i>Abbreviations</i>			
<i>VF - Very Flat</i>	<i>F - Flat</i>	<i>S - Sharp</i>	<i>VS - Very Sharp</i>

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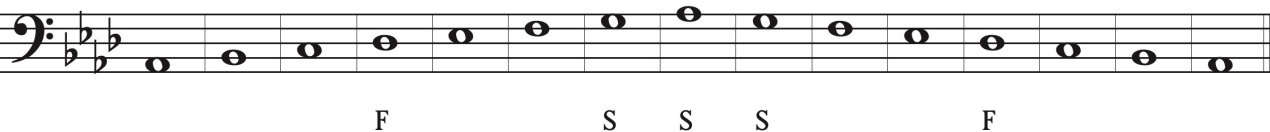
## Concert Bb Major Scale



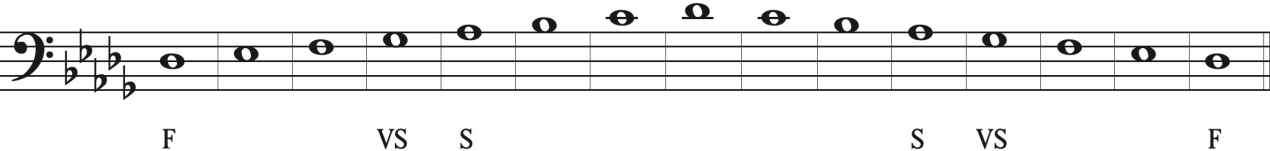
## Concert Eb Major Scale



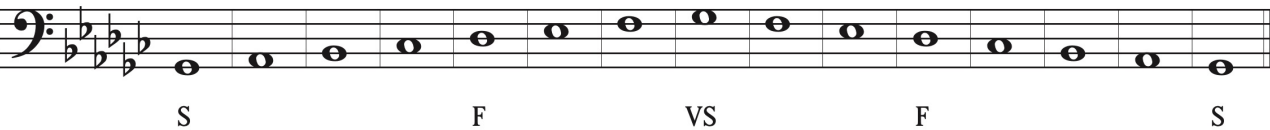
## Concert Ab Major Scale



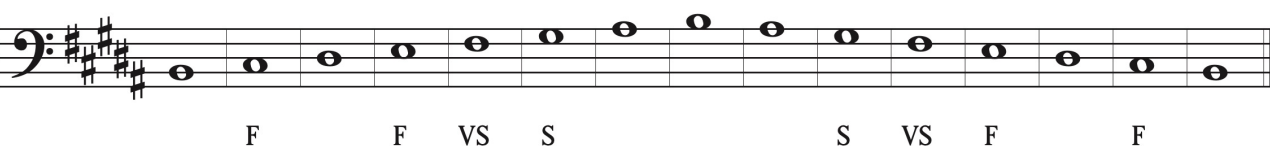
## Concert Db Major Scale



## Concert Gb Major Scale



## Concert B Major Scale

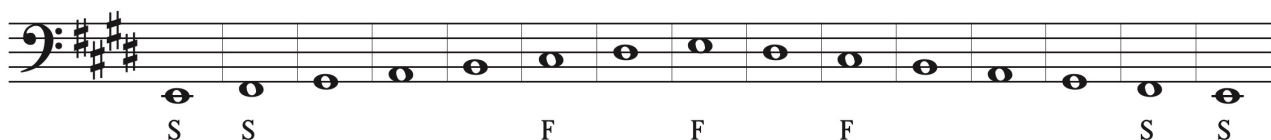


# Bassoon Major Scales

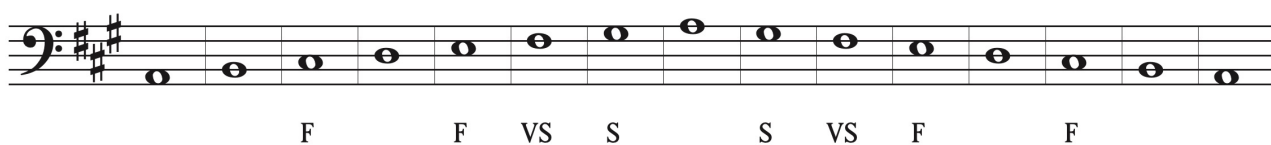
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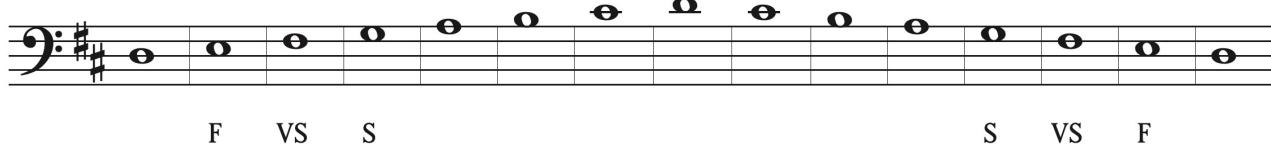
### Concert E Major Scale



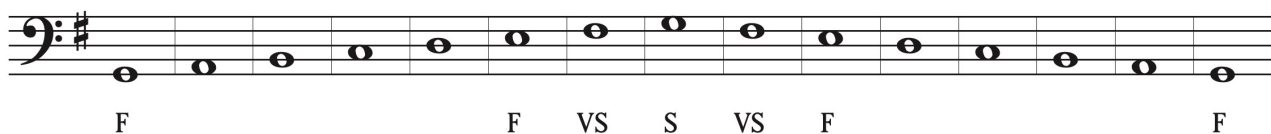
### Concert A Major Scale



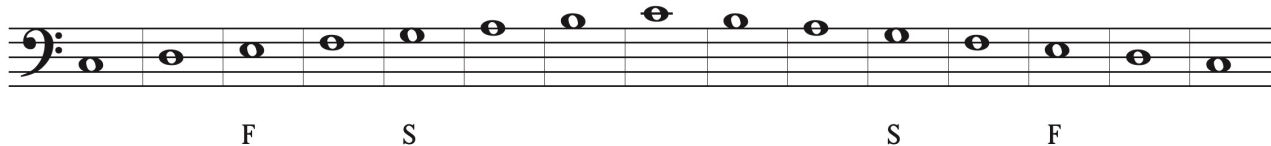
### Concert D Major Scale



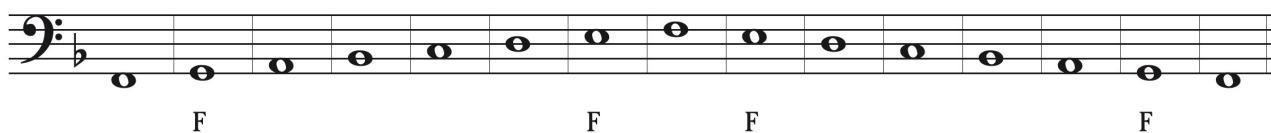
### Concert G Major Scale



### Concert C Major Scale



### Concert F Major Scale



# Interval Tuning

## *Interval Tuning Explained*

*When multiple notes are played at a time, each note produces a unique sound wave based off the pitch being played. When the frequencies align, the beats or waves in the sound disappear and it sounds “in tune” to our ears. When more than one pitch is played, the notes above the fundamental pitch must be adjusted to make the frequencies align and create that “in tune” sound. We call this “just intonation.”*

## Adjustments Needed

The adjustments listed below are the number of cents that must be raised or lowered in order to produce an “in tune” sound when playing an interval above the tonic (first note) of a key. It is important to note that your tuner will say that you are not in tune when playing this way - this is why it is important to listen first before you look at your tuner!

### Major Scale

Unison	Major 2nd	Major 3rd	Perfect 4th	Perfect 5th	Major 6th	Major 7th	Perfect 8th
0	+4	-14	-2	+2	-16	-12	0

### Minor Scale

Unison	Major 2nd	minor 3rd	Perfect 4th	Perfect 5th	minor 6th	minor 7th	Perfect 8th
0	+4	+16	-2	+2	+14	+18	0

## Listen Before You Look

When an interval is adjusted properly the beats or waves in the sound disappear. Because of this, it is important to train yourself to listen for the in tune sound as your primary tuning mechanism. The tuner should be used as a reference point after you have used your ears to adjust the pitch. Always listen before you look!

## When Should You Use This?

Just intonation or interval tuning is only necessary when playing chords or long and sustained sounds. When playing fast sections or melodic material, interval adjustments are not required.

# Bassoon Interval Tuning

*Make sure to listen to the drone during the rests and try to hear your next pitch before playing it!*

*- lower pitch by number of cents    + raise pitch by number of cents*

## Concert Bb Major

0                      +4                      -14                      -2                      +2

-16                      -12                      0                      0                      +2                      -14                      0

## Concert Eb Major

0                      +4                      -14                      -2                      +2

-16                      -12                      0                      0                      +2                      -14                      0

## Concert F Major

0                      +4                      -14                      -2                      +2

-16                      -12                      0                      0                      +2                      -14                      0



# Bassoon Interval Tuning

*Make sure to listen to the drone during the rests and try to hear your next pitch before playing it!*

*- lower pitch by number of cents    + raise pitch by number of cents*

## Concert G minor

0                      +4                      +16                      -2                      +2

+14                      +18                      0                      0                      +2                      +16                      0

## Concert C minor

0                      +4                      +16                      -2                      +2

+14                      +18                      0                      0                      +2                      +16                      0

## Concert D minor

0                      +4                      +16                      -2                      +2

+14                      +18                      0                      0                      +2                      +16                      0