Pitch Tendency Chart Guide

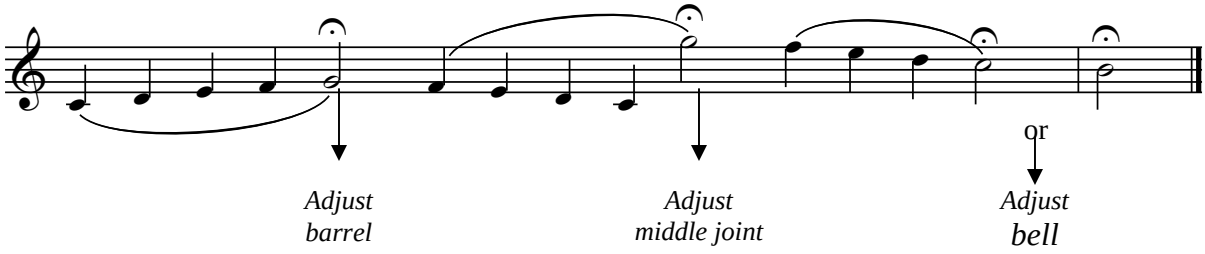
Clarinet

Basic Tuning Rules

1. *Warm up thoroughly before tuning*
2. *Always use sufficient air support and play at a mezzo forte dynamic level.*
3. *Do not use vibrato or try to manipulate the tuning note—play it straight.*
4. *Before completing the chart, tune to the pitches shown below. Adjust the barrel, middle joint, and/or bell as shown below if pitch is sharp or flat.*

Your Tuning Notes

Play quarter note pitches to help "prep" the tuning notes (the half note pitches).



Your Tuning Mechanism

Barrel, middle joint, and bell. Pull out or push in the barrel (never the mouthpiece) to tune the open tone G if it is sharp or flat (the barrel is the main tuning mechanism). Next, adjust the middle joint to tune the G on top of the staff. Last adjust the bell to tune the C or B on the staff if necessary. For any of these mechanisms, pull out if you are sharp, and push in if you are flat.

Note- If your Bb clarinet is extremely sharp and you have to pull the barrel more than 1 ½ mm, use tuning rings to fill in the gap, otherwise poor intonation will result.

The tuning pitches for bass and contrabass clarinet are the same as Bb soprano clarinet (shown above). The tuning pitches for Eb soprano, alto, and contra-alto clarinets are concert Bb and Eb or D.

How to Adjust a Pitch While Playing

- Sharp notes- "lip up" (increase lower lip pressure)
- Flat notes- "lip down" (drop jaw, open throat)
- Alternate fingerings

Common Out of Tune Notes