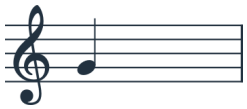Clarinet: G, F and E

B♭ clarinet · written pitch · treble clef. Three first notes: read them, finger them, play them. Your teacher guides setup and first sound.

1 · THREE NOTES ON THE STAFF
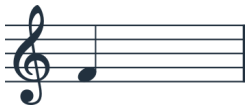
Clarinet music uses treble clef. These are **written** notes in octave 4 (C4 = middle C). Count lines and spaces from the bottom.

G4
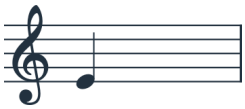


Line 2

F4



Space 1

E4



Line 1 (bottom line)

2 · THREE FINGERINGS, ONE FINGER AT A TIME

Hole map, not a picture of the clarinet. Left column = left hand (the upper hand, nearer the mouthpiece); right column = right hand (the lower hand). Side by side only to save space. T = the thumb hole, covered by the left thumb. LH1–LH3 = left index, middle, ring; RH1–RH3 = the same fingers of the right hand. Solid = covered; empty = open. No keys pressed. Register key off. Not to scale.

G4

○ T · thumb

○ LH1	○ RH1
○ LH2	○ RH2
○ LH3	○ RH3

nothing covered · register key off

F4

● T · thumb

○ LH1	○ RH1
○ LH2	○ RH2
○ LH3	○ RH3

thumb hole · register key off

E4

● T · thumb

● LH1	○ RH1
○ LH2	○ RH2
○ LH3	○ RH3

thumb hole + LH1 · register key off

Going down, cover one more hole each time: the thumb hole for F, then LH1 for E. Find each hole with your teacher first.

3 · WHAT THE PIANO HEARS
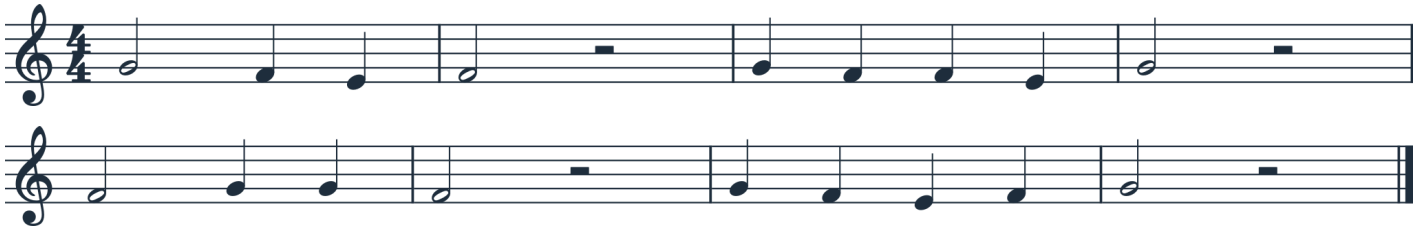
A B♭ clarinet sounds a **major 2nd (2 half steps) lower** than written: one letter lower on a piano.

You read (written)	G4	F4	E4
You cover	no holes	thumb hole	thumb hole + LH1
The piano plays (sounding)	**F4**	**E♭4**	**D4**

Playing together: a pianist plays the bottom row; you keep reading the top row. More: Handout 392, *Written & concert pitch*.

4 · READ, REST, PLAY

Original tune · 4/4 · quarter note = 60 BPM. Count **1–2–3–4** in every bar. Breathe in the half rests (bars 2, 4, 6 and 8).



Try it Which note needs no holes covered and no keys pressed? **Answer: G.**
From E, which finger lifts to play F? Which lifts next for G? **Answer: the left index (LH1), then the left thumb.**

Audio at sounding pitch: the notes you hear when a B♭ clarinet plays G4, F4 and E4
Piano · quarter = 60 · the three notes, then the tune after four clicks. Pitch and rhythm model, not a clarinet tone model.
You read G4, F4 and E4; the piano plays F4, E♭4 and D4 (section 3). Scan or visit tissimo.co/worksheets/clarinet-first-notes-g-f-e#listen

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