

Teaching Beginner Woodwinds with “First Weeks” Sheets
A Teacher’s Guide
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These are for homogeneous classes. They might be useful for some mixed groups (such as flutes with oboes) but probably for a shorter amount of time.

These lines do not have to be played in order and all of them do not have to be played.

The first notes learned are given as a whole note followed by whole rest. Later new notes do not have the whole rest, but the teacher can always add that.

The first two exercises follow the concept of the two main priorities of beginner being production of 1. a single good note, and 2. a single note re-articulated.

Some teachers may choose to do the articulated measures (4 repeated quarters) later.

A fermata may be added on the last note of any measure. Any fermati indicated may be deleted.

Once movement begins from note to note, slurs are always used. This is all building toward detection of any hand position faults that might occur as range is extended. Slurred measures may be tongued, either later or simultaneously with the slurred version.

Flute specific:

- I would recommend doing ex. 1-10 with thumb on the right, 13-16 with thumb on left, and then as line 17 begins, thumb on the right again, using the lever for the Bb.
- Once student go into the book regularly, have them do those lines with the thumb on the left—they will not see B-natural for some time.
- Ex. 17 is the start of really building flexibility in the embouchure. I would recommend upward only at first, but the downward version of this can be used later.

Oboe specifics:

- Ex. 17 is the start of octave exercises for oboes, using only the 3 half-hole notes. Slur upward only at first, adding downward version of the same slurs later.
- Ex. 17 can be expanded later to add the 5 notes that produce octave slurs via the thumb (1st) octave key.

Bassoon specifics

- Ex. 21 is the start of octave exercises for bassoons, using only the 3 half-hole notes. Slur upward only at first, adding downward version of the same slurs later.