

Clarinet Intonation

problems and some solutions

NOTES THAT TEND TO BE FLAT

Can be flat in forte

NOTES THAT TEND TO BE SHARP

Usually sharp, especially in pianissimo:

affects tone a bit, but not as noticeable in pianissimo

"shade" by fingering close to open holes

improves tone and intonation

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Do NOT use r. h. pinky on this note! That vent is used on notes above this.

ALTISSIMO CAN BE FLAT OR SHARP (OR IN TUNE!)

Sharp: If player pinches.

Flat: If embouchure/air is not developed, in forte and when articulated heavily. These notes will often sound low if in unison with flutes or an octave above trumpets.

My favorite, and no one knows this one! No pinky.

This one articulates well, especially on Eb soprano clarinet.

"Long" F: especially nice in pp

All of these are better in tune than the one usually shown in charts

An easy alternative to ones usually shown in charts