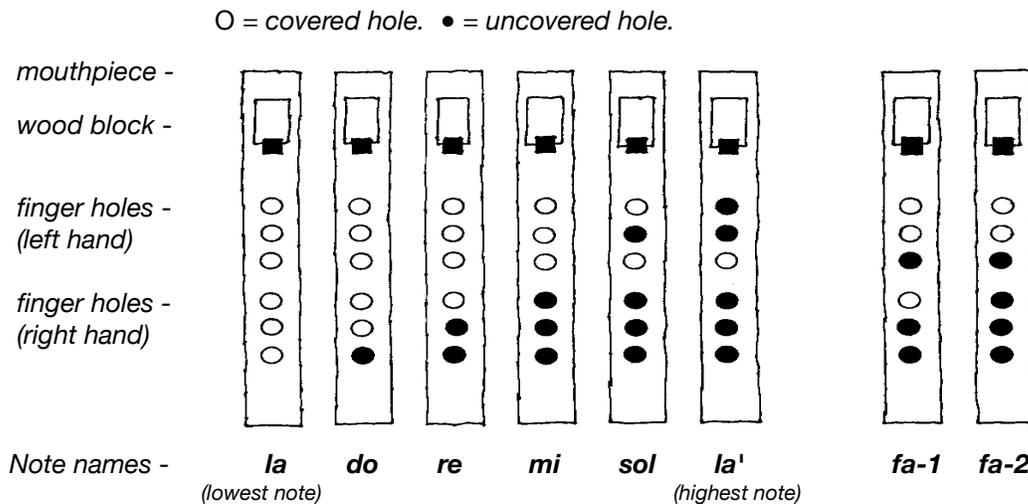


## PLAYING AND ADJUSTING YOUR PEACE FLUTE

Compact, light, waterproof, and crush resistant, PEACE FLUTES are Native American-style flutes that allow you to make music wherever you go. They are great for hiking, boating, backpacking, relaxation, and meditation. Music training is not required; you can easily improvise your own music. Their ancient five-note scale is haunting and soothing. Each flute is handmade from drinking water safe, PVC plastic and sealed hardwood. You will be surprised by their lovely tone and playing ease.

### PLAYING

This type of flute is played like a recorder. Place your lips snugly against the mouthpiece and blow until you make a clear tone. You can experiment freely or learn notes, scales, and tunes. The six vertical flute diagrams on the left show which holes to cover or uncover with your fingers to play each note of a pentatonic (five note) scale. The mouthpiece is at the top. The left hand plays the upper three round holes; the right hand plays the lower three. Use your 1st, 2nd, and 3rd fingers. Your thumbs and little fingers are not used on the holes but only to hold the flute.



**La, do, re, mi, sol, la'** make up a minor pentatonic scale. Play those notes in any order and you can improvise a pleasing melody. Start and end on **do** for a major scale sound; start and end on **la** for a minor scale sound. The **fa-1** diagram is used to play **fa** on most of the Native-style flutes I've owned, played, or made. But I tune some flutes that use diagram **fa-2** to play **fa**.

My flutes are tuned to a sweet natural scale based on A=440. They can be played along with other instruments. Temperature and humidity variation, and block adjustment, can make them a little higher or lower in pitch. But you can also raise the pitch by blowing harder or lower it by blowing softer. The airway under the wood block can collect moisture after long periods of playing. This can prevent proper sound. Let the flute dry, or remove the block and dry moisture to continue playing.

Flute sizes are identified by the letter name of the lowest note, which is engraved on each flute along with my logo. **"B"** and **"A"** flutes have a warm, bright tone and a shorter reach between finger holes. Larger flutes are lower in pitch with a rich, mellow tone. If you are not certain which you'd like best, I suggest starting with an **A-flute** for convenient size, range, and playing ease.

**B-flute.** Small size, plays the keys of B minor and most of D major. Good for smaller hands.

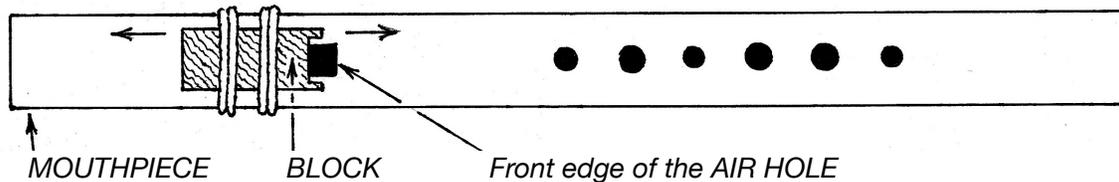
**A-flute.** Slightly larger, plays A minor and most of C major. Good for smaller hands

**F#-flute.** Plays F# minor and most of A major.

**E-flute.** Plays E minor and most of G major.

## HOW TO ADJUST YOUR FLUTE

A handy feature of PEACE FLUTES, and most Native-style flutes, is that you can adjust the sound and pitch by moving the block that is tied on top of the flute. But if the block has come loose or been moved out of adjustment, tone will be poor, or it might not make a musical sound at all. That might not be the flutes fault. Learn the following steps to get the best sound and playability.



The drawing above shows the top view of a flute. The wood BLOCK is held in place with one or two elastic bands or with leather lacing. Make certain it is tight. When you blow into the MOUTHPIECE end of the flute, air moves through the MOUTHPIECE and up into an airway under the bottom of the BLOCK. This airway then directs your breath along the bottom of the BLOCK and out an *air exit* toward the front edge of the AIR HOLE. The position of the BLOCK relative to the front edge of the AIR HOLE, as shown in the drawing, is critical. Check to make certain that the BLOCK is centered on the AIR HOLE side to side. In the diagram that would be up and down. The BLOCK and its air exit must point exactly at the AIR HOLE. Next, check the distance between the BLOCK air exit and the front edge of the AIR HOLE. The optimum distance can vary from flute to flute but will probably be about 3/16 to 1/4 inch. To adjust, move the BLOCK closer to or farther from the front edge of the AIR HOLE, left or right in the diagram. Test the tone by playing. Keep adjusting until the flute sounds best to you. I sometimes like to mark the best BLOCK location with a pencil.

Here are some additional tips. If you move the BLOCK farther from the edge, left in the diagram, you can slightly raise the pitch of the flute and make the tone softer and more breathy. Go too far to the left and the flute will no longer sound. If you move the BLOCK closer to the edge, right in the diagram, you can lower the pitch slightly and make the tone more bright, loud, and clear. If you go too far to the right the tone will weaken, and it will be difficult to sound the low notes. They may "over-blow" and sound an octave higher. The total range of useful adjustment left to right is rather small, perhaps 1/8 inch to 1/4 inch.

On some Native-style flutes you might be able to over-blow a few of the low notes to play higher, thereby increasing the range of notes. Play the lowest note, *la*, or next note, *do*, and experiment with blowing harder to hear if you can get a pleasant sounding note an octave higher. If not, that's okay. A lot of music can be arranged and played without those notes.

I began making plastic flutes for wilderness canoe trips. After some experimenting, I came to like their sound better than most wood flutes of similar size. For fun, I often add beads and binding to make my flutes more colorful. Most are one of a kind.

For a long time I have loved Native-style flutes and their rich yet gentle sound. They blend our breath with the music of nature. You can harmonize with a rippling brook, or wind in the trees, or distant bird calls. Legendary Cherokee flute maker Hawk Littlejohn taught me that the purpose of the flute is spiritual. He told me, "play to empty yourself so that peace can flow in." Peace and beauty, and sharing them, are my goals as an instrument maker. I wish you Peace through Music.