

# Basic info on the flute (Ney flute scales)

the chart applies to 6 hole flutes with an additional side hole.

If you bought an 8 hole flute, just ignore the side hole in the chart and keep the pinky finger always on the lowest hole in order to use the chart. You can then use the 8th hole as an addition in your playing.

● = hole closed   o = hole open.   / = hole half open

	<b>gray shaded area= hole on back side and side hole played with pinky finger</b>							
	<b>Playing a melodic minor scale</b> pointer finger of right hand and middle finger of left hand keep holes always closed. modification: Back side hole can be half closed to modify the scale towards harmonic minor							
<b>back side</b>	●	●	●	●	●	o	●	●
pointer finger l.h.	●	●	●	●	o	o	●	●
middle finger l.h.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
ring finger l.h.	●	●	●	o	o	o	●	●
pointer finger r.h.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
middle finger r.h.	●	●	o	o	o	o	●	●
ring finger r.h.	●	o	o	o	o	o	●	●
<b>side hole</b>	o	o	o	o	o	o	o	●

	<b>Playing the Hungarian Gypsy scale</b> (also called Flamenco scale. Same scale as the Indian Raga Simhendramadhyamam)								
	<div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; margin-bottom: 5px;">slide</div>								
<b>back side</b>	●	●	●	●	●	→ / →	o	●	
pointer finger l.h.	●	●	●	●	o		o	o	●
middle finger l.h.	●	●	●	o	o		o	o	●
ring finger l.h.	●	●	●	o	o		o	o	●
pointer finger r.h.	●	●	●	o	o		o	o	●
middle finger r.h.	●	●	o	o	o		o	o	●
ring finger r.h.	●	o	o	o	o		o	o	●
<b>side hole</b>	o	o	o	o	o		o	o	●

	<p align="center"><b>Playing the Misheberak scale / Romanian minor scale/Tunisian scale</b></p> <p align="center">the scale is related to the Hijaz scale and the Freygish scale</p> <p align="center"><b>the hole on the back side first needs to be played half closed, then open. When it is played open, there should be a stronger blow applied to reach a higher pitch.</b></p>							
<b>back side</b>	●	●	●	●	●	/	○	●
pointer finger l.h.	●	●	●	●	○	○	○	●
middle finger l.h.	●	●	●	○	○	○	○	●
ring finger l.h.	●	●	●	○	○	○	○	●
pointer finger r.h.	●	●	●	○	○	○	○	●
middle finger r.h.	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	●
ring finger r.h.	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	●
<b>side hole</b>	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	●

	<p align="center"><b>Playing the Pentatonic minor scale (Native American scale)</b></p> <p align="center">lifting ring finger and middle finger of right hand simultaneously, keeping pointer finger of right hand and middle finger of left hand on holes</p>							
<b>back side</b>	●	●	●	●	○	●		
pointer finger l.h.	●	●	●	○	○	●		
middle finger l.h.	●	●	●	●	●	●		
ring finger l.h.	●	●	○	○	○	●		
pointer finger r.h.	●	●	●	●	●	●		
middle finger r.h.	●	○	○	○	○	●		
ring finger r.h.	●	○	○	○	○	●		
<b>side hole</b>	○	○	○	○	○	○		

	Playing the Raga Jog						
<b>back side</b>	●	●	●	●	●	○	●
pointer finger l.h.	●	●	●	●	○	○	●
middle finger l.h.	●	●	●	●	●	○	●
ring finger l.h.	●	●	●	○	○	○	●
pointer finger r.h.	●	●	○	○	○	○	●
middle finger r.h.	●	○	○	○	○	○	●
ring finger r.h.	●	○	○	○	○	○	●
<b>side hole</b>	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

General hint: try playing with the middle fingers of both hands always keeping the holes closed, while lifting the other fingers step by step. This will lead to a scale called rast makam, which is almost a Major scale.

Also try leaving the pointer fingers of both hands always on the holes, and try opening the two lowest holes one after another, and then lifting the ring finger and the middle finger of the left hand simultaneously. This will lead to various minor scales.

## Keeping the flute in good condition

Bamboo and other cane is sensitive to sudden changes of temperature. A sudden change of humidity or temperature might lead to a crack. If the flute is cold, warm it up slowly before blowing into it.

**Things that should be avoided:** leaving the flute in a hot car in summer (especially near a window) or a cold car in winter.

Bringing it in contact with water.

Playing for a very long time (much condensing water from blowing).

Applying mechanical force on the flute. Dropping the flute on the floor can break it.

Not playing the flute for a long time will result in drying of the cane, which could lead to a crack eventually.

If you haven't played the flute for a long time, check the inside before playing to make sure there are no animals or dirt inside.

## Cleaning and oiling:

If you start playing and the sound is dull or no sound comes out at all, there is most likely something inside the flute. Even a small piece of paper, a lint from cloth or any other small part inside the flute or around the sound holes can destroy the sound.

Once in a while the flute needs to be oiled, to keep it safe from drying out and cracking.

The flutes I make usually come pre-oiled with grape seed oil.

You should be good oiling the flute every few months or when you notice that the sound becomes dull. You can pour the oil directly from the bottle into the flute, let it run out, make sure the whole inside gets covered with the oil, rub it onto the outside also, clean the flute with paper towels (only on the outside), put it upright at a safe place on paper towels, so the surplus oil can drip out, and let it stand for a few hours.

This method is the safest. I don't recommend other methods like applying oil on a piece of cloth that is wrapped around a stick or something like that. Those methods can damage the flute from inside, and if you apply too much force, it can even crack, and the Bamboo membrane near the embouchure could be damaged also (if you bought a Bansuri flute).

In my experience, grape seed oil works the best for easily oiling a flute. However, you can as well use sunflower oil, sesame oil or almond oil. Grape seed oil is almost odorless and very thin, which is good.

