



The C# Trill Key The Split E Key & G "Donut" Insert

The C# Trill Key

1. B to C# - both octaves, 1st and 2nd, speak accurately and clearly.
2. C to C# - the C# trill offers ease for this trill, normally trilled with the first finger of the left hand.
3. High G to Ab – using the C# trill key produces far more accurate pitch than the conventional method of using the first trill key.
4. High G to A – this is a winner! An impractical trill on the standard flute, the C# trill key makes this trill a breeze – and accurately in tune! Finger high G, then trill the C# key and the upper (first) trill key simultaneously.
5. A large variety of tremolos are possible. For example: finger A, Bb, B and C in succession while trilling the C# trill key. This will give you a continuous tremolo to Db (C#). By combining the C# trill key and other trill keys, other tremolos are possible.

The Split E Key or G "Donut" Insert

High E has always been considered a problem note on the flute. It is easily cracked and tends to be quite sharp, especially in forte passages. Ideally, the high E should be fingered with the two G keys (right finger left hand) split so that the bottom key (of the connected keys) is down and the other is up. The split E accomplishes this by dividing the normally connected G key structure so that it will work simultaneously for G yet independently for high E. The G "Donut" insert is a popular alternative to the split E Key. It can be installed as an option on a new flute and is also available for flutes after originally purchased.

1. Rapid slurs from high A to high E speak easily with no special fingerings.
2. Quick leaping passages from lower notes to high E and back present little or no problem as the high E speaks freely.

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- Many people have asked about the C# trill key and what it does. The very name of the key causes confusion. Actually, this mechanism is one of the most useful on the flute. Basically, it moves several left hand movements to the right hand and simplifies a number of trills. It also provides an additional vent which clarifies several notes and octaves. The following examples will illustrate some of its many functions.

TRILLS

- B to C# in the first and second octaves: Simply finger B and trill the C# trill key. The intonation is better and a two finger trill is eliminated.
- High F# to G#: Finger high F# and trill the C# trill key. Anyone who has played the Grand Canyon Suite will appreciate this one.
- C to C#, both octaves: This is a faster trill and allows for a more comfortable feel.
- High G to Ab: Better in tune, and far more comfortable.
- High G to A: Finger high G and trill the C# trill key AND the upper trill key. This trill alone is worth the price of the key.
- High Ab to Bb: This trill, which shows up in many Mahler Symphonies, is played by fingering high Ab and trilling BOTH trill keys AND the C# trill key. The trill will be in tune.
- Tremolos and shakes: First octave C, B, Bb, A, Ab and G can be tremoloed with C# by just using the C# trill key. The same notes can all be tremoloed with D natural by using the C# trill key and first trill key in combination. These notes may require some pitch adjustment, but there is no easy way to do these effects.
- The use of the trill keys and the C# trill in combination can produce many startling effects, and experimentation can be very rewarding.

SPECIALTY NOTES

- Pianissimo high Ab: How many of us have tried to play this note softly, and keep pitch and sonority? Play middle Ab with ALL the left hand keys depressed, add the C# trill and the high Ab will appear softly, and in tune.
- Debussy C#: The middle C# which opens "L'apres-midi d'une faune" is often raw and hard to color. Use the C# trill key while fingering B natural, and you will get a C# which is full and able to be colored without losing pitch, since the resistance of the note is increased.
- A word about mechanism is probably in order. Since this key has its own rod, it will not interfere with or complicate the existing mechanism. The placement of the key lever is not clumsy, since it is above and to the left of the Bb shake. A few moments of playing will convince the player of the ease of operation of both keys.
- Careful comparison of identical flutes, with and without the C# trill, have convinced us that the additional hole does not affect tone.