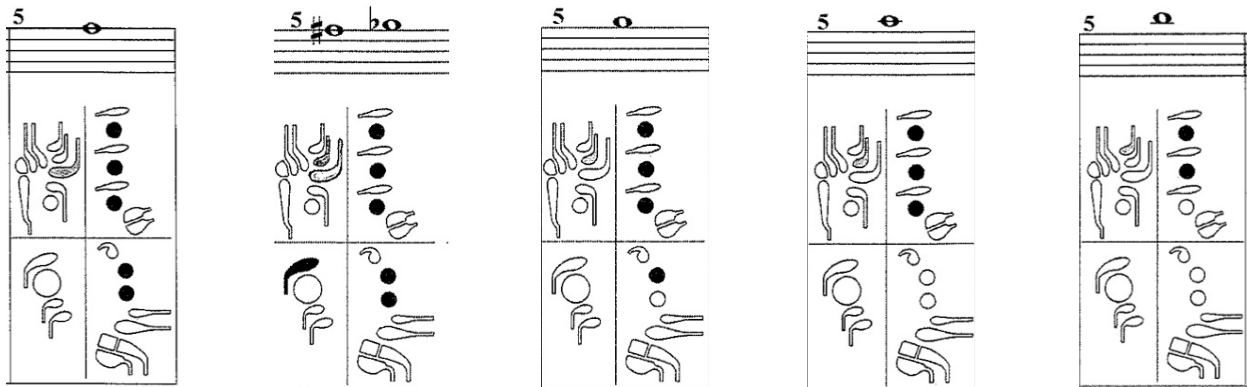


Speaker Key Usage (Flicking)

The speaker keys on the bassoon are the left thumb keys above the whisper key. Use of the speaker keys on the bassoon is a way to vent certain notes to achieve an octave interval, much as an octave key is used on other instruments such as the saxophone. The term “flicking” is used because we quickly press and release the key at the beginning of the note instead of leaving the speaker key open. The reason we do not simply hold the key down is because the pitch of the note is noticeably altered. (I do ask my beginners to just hold the key down, and later on progress to actually flicking the key.)

What notes to flick?

The following notes should be flicked on bassoon. The relevant speaker key is shaded in gray.



When to flick?

Any time a “flick note” is articulated (tongued), the corresponding speaker key should be used.



“Flick notes” under a slur should also use the appropriate speaker key. *Note* This rule only applies when slurs are a leap, not from a neighboring note.



When **NOT** to flick?

“Flick notes” under a slur that are approached step-wise (neighboring note) do not need to be flicked.

