

TRANSPOSING INSTRUMENTS

A transposing instrument is one in which the note that is played sounds different from concert pitch (the pitch that is heard when the note is played on a piano). For example, when a B \flat instrument plays the note C on the staff, the pitch that sounds is B \flat , one whole-step below the written pitch.

Some reasons for transposing instruments.

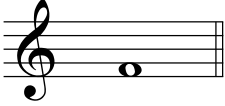
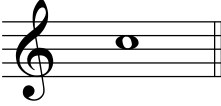
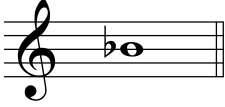
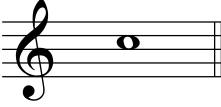
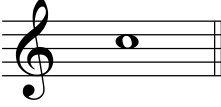
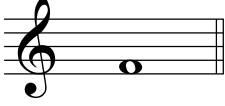
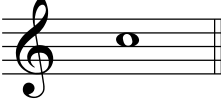
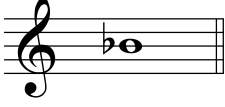
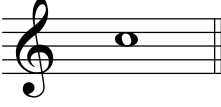

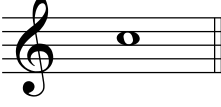
1. Many instruments sound best in the transposed key.
2. The pitches for some instruments are outside of the staff for traditional clefs, and would require notation to include many ledger lines or changing clefs.

An easy way to remember the relationship of a transposing instrument is "Written C sounds ___, using the key of the instrument to fill in the blank. For example:

B \flat Clarinet: Written C sounds B \flat (music is notated a Major 2nd above the sound)

E \flat Saxophone: Written C sounds E \flat (music is notated a Major 6th above the sound)

Some common transposing instruments and their transpositions are:

	Concert Pitch	Written Note
English Horn in F: Up a Perfect 5th		
Clarinet in B \flat : Up a Major 2nd		
Bass Clarinet in B \flat : Up a Major 9th		
Horn in F (French Horn): Up a Perfect 5th		
Trumpet in B \flat : Up a Major 2nd		
Alto Sax in E \flat : Up a Major 6th		
Tenor Sax in B \flat : Up a Major 9th		

Preparing a Part for a Transposing Instrument

Prepare for B \flat Clarinet

1. Notate the part in concert pitch.
2. Using the interval between the key of concert pitch and the key of the transposing instrument, determine the key in which the part should be written.
3. Draw the key signature for the new key.
Notate the part in the new key.

1. Concert Pitch: Key of D Major

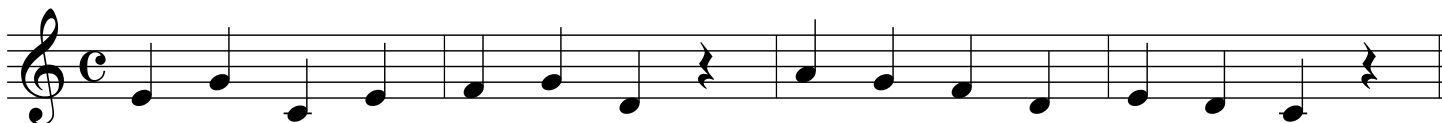


2. Transpose up a Major 2nd to E Major

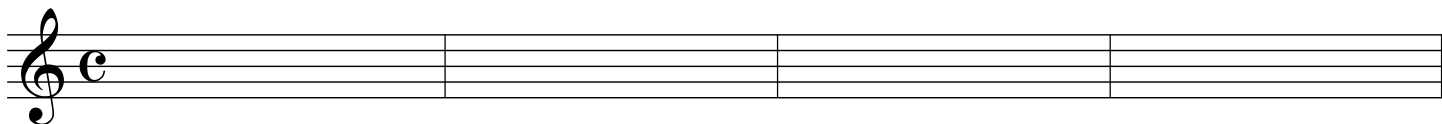
3. Notate Clarinet part in the key of E Major



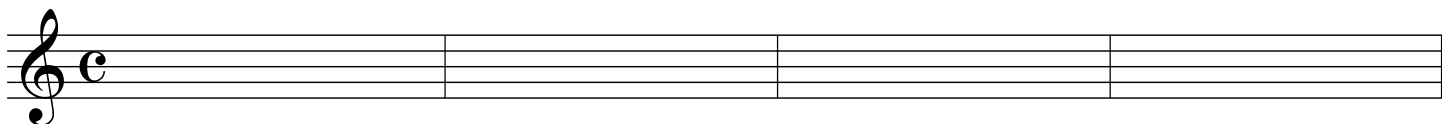
1. Transpose the following melody, which is notated in concert pitch, to the correct key for each of the following transposing instruments. Use key signatures, not accidentals.



Horn in F (French Horn)



Alto Sax



Tenor Sax

