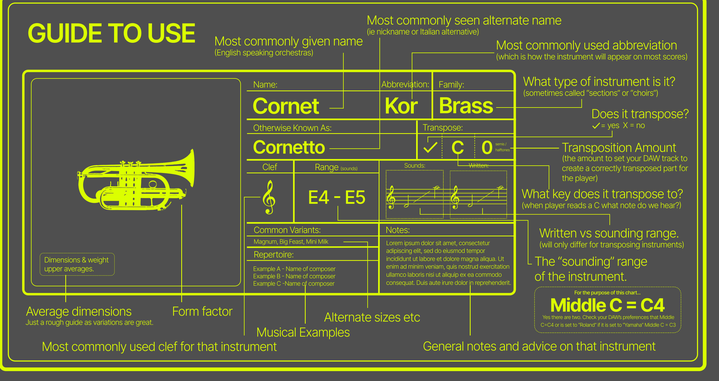
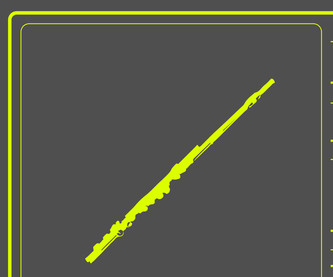
BLAGSHEET #03
INSTRUMENTS

Version 1.2.2 - 05.01.25

By courtesy of The Crow Hill Company

GUIDE TO USE





Length: 26" (680mm)
Weight: 1.5lb (0.68kg)

Name: **C - Flute** | Abreviation: **Fl** | Family: **Woods**

Otherwise Known As: **Concert Flute** | Transpose: X | C | 0 semis / halftones

Clef: 𝄞 | Range (sounds): C_4 - D_7

Sounds / Written

Common Variants: Piccolo, Alto Flute, Bass Flute

Repertoire:
Symphony No. 3 (mvt. IV) - Beethoven
Carnival of the Animals (Volière) - Saint-Saëns
A Midsummer Night's Dream (Scherzo) - Mendelssohn

Notes: One of the true lyricists of the orchestra. Played by blowing across an open hole into what is ostensibly a big whistle. The flute is one of the most expressive, dynamic & agile members of the orchestra. Flute players are known as "Flautists" (pron floortists).



Diameter: 14" (510mm)
Weight: 3lb (1.36kg)

Name: **French Horn** | Abreviation: **FH** | Family: **Brass**

Otherwise Known As: **Corno** | Transpose: ✓ | F | +7 semis / halftones

Clef(s): 𝄢 𝄞 | Range (sounds): F_2 - D_5

Sounds / Written

Common Variants: Single, Double, Triple & Descant Horns

Repertoire:
Symphony No.1 - Mahler
Symphony No. 3 - Beethoven
Symphony No. 9 - Dvořák

Notes: A truly majestic instrument, the "cello" of the brass section with a large tonal and timbral range that will take you from heartbreaking warmth to something more forceful. But always nobel, regal and trustworthy.



Length: 14" (355mm)
Weight: 1.5lb (0.68kg)

Name: **Violin** | Abreviation: **Vl** | Family: **Strings**

Otherwise Known As: **Violino** | Transpose: X | C | 0 semis / halftones

Clef: 𝄞 | Range (Sounds): G_3 - A_7

Sounds / Written

Common Variants: Fiddle (same construction with different playing approach)

Repertoire:
Symphony No. 9 (mvt. III) - Beethoven
The Magic Flute (overture) - Mozart
The Nutcracker Suite (overture)- Tchaikovsky

Notes: The first violinist is called the "orchestra leader" which tells you all about the instrument. Violins generally are the most active members of the orchestra which has two entirely independent violin sections referred to as 1sts and 2nds. The violin is the first musical instrument to be played in space by Canadian Astronaut Chris Hadfield aboard the ISS.



Length: 23" (580mm)
Weight: 1.5lb (0.68kg)

Name: **Oboe** | Abreviation: **Ob** | Family: **Woods**

Otherwise Known As: **Hautbois (fr)** | Transpose: X | C | 0 semis / halftones

Clef: 𝄞 | Range (sounds): $D_4^{\flat}$ - C_7

Sounds / Written

Common Variants: Bass Oboe, Cor Anglais

Repertoire:
Symphony No. 3 - Mahler
Don Juan , Op. 20 - Richard Strauss
Daphnis et Chloé, Suite No. 2 - Ravel

Notes: The whole orchestra tunes to the oboe. They are a double reeded instrument that hold a distinctive pure and almost mournful tone. They are incredibly agile but less dynamic and expressive than say flutes. Oboe players are known as Oboists.



Length: 20" (510mm)
Weight: 2lb (0.91kg)

Name: **Trumpet** | Abreviation: **Tpt** | Family: **Brass**

Otherwise Known As: **Tromba** | Transpose: ✓ | $B^{\flat}$ | +2 semis / halftones

Clef: 𝄞 | Range (sounds): E_3 - $B_5^{\flat}$

Sounds / Written

Common Variants: Cornet, Bb Trumpet, Flugelhorn

Repertoire:
Fanfare for the Common Man - Copland
Concerto for Orchestra - Bartók
Symphony No. 3 - Mahler

Notes: In the right hands trumpets can be the true mavericks of an orchestra. With a huge pitch range and dynamics that take it from soft and warm to ear piercing biting and attacking notes. Trumpet players are called trumpeters.



Length: 16" (406 mm)
Weight: 2.5lb (1.13kg)

Name: **Viola** | Abreviation: **Vla** | Family: **Strings**

Otherwise Known As: **Alto (fr)** | Transpose: X | C | 0 semis / halftones

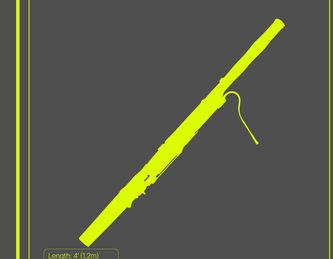
Clef: 𝄡 | Range (sounds): C_3 - A_6

Sounds / Written

Common Variants: NA

Repertoire:
Symphony No.2 (mvt. I) - Brahms
Brandenburg Concerto No. 6 - JS Bach
Symphony No. 35 - Mozart

Notes: Violas are a larger violin that play more in the "tenor" range. Because of western orchestral voicing they will often play the slightly less interesting inner harmonies that lie between the cellos and the violins. This results in an age-old, and totally unfair teasing by the rest of the orchestral players as somewhat lesser players.



Length: 28" (710mm)
Weight: 5lb (1.8kg)

Name: **Bassoon** | Abreviation: **Bsn** | Family: **Woods**

Otherwise Known As: **Fagotto** | Transpose: X | C | 0 semis / halftones

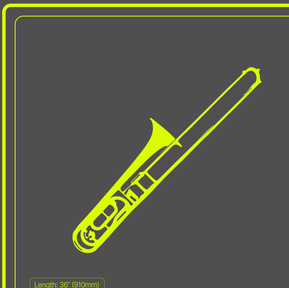
Clef: 𝄢 | Range (sounds): $B_1^{\flat}$ - E_5

Sounds / Written

Common Variants: Contrabassoon

Repertoire:
The Sorcerer's Apprentice - Dukas
The Firebird - Stravinsky
Marriage of Figaro (overture) - Mozart

Notes: From its signature comedic (if not slightly malevolent) pumping short notes to incredibly mournful pure tones in its upper register. This agile double reeded instrument is rich in expression, and dynamics. Bassoon players are known as Bassoonists.



Length: 36" (910mm)
Weight: 6lb (2.7kg)

Name: **Trombone** | Abreviation: **Tbn** | Family: **Brass**

Otherwise Known As: **(Tenor) Bone** | Transpose: X | C | 0 semis / halftones

Clef: 𝄢 | Range (sounds): E_2 - $B_4^{\flat}$

Writes the same as sounds.

Common Variants: Bass Trombone, Contrabass Trombone

Repertoire:
Ride of the Valkyries - Wagner
Also Sprach Zarathustra - Strauss
In the Hall of the Mountain King - Grieg

Notes: Trombones offer the greatest timbral range of the brass section. From a slightly pompous imitation tonality of the French horn when played loudly these instruments become a rasping Jekyll to its quieter Mr Hyde. Players are known as trombonists. Need to talk about extended range here.



Height: 4' (1.22m)
Weight: 4.5lb (2.04kg)

Name: **Cello** | Abreviation: **VlC** | Family: **Strings**

Otherwise Known As: **Violoncello** | Transpose: X | C | 0 semis / halftones

Clef: 𝄢 | Range (sounds): C_2 - A_6

Sounds / Written

Common Variants: NA

Repertoire:
Symphony No. 2 - Mahler
The Swan Lake Suite (Suite 4C)- Tchaikovsky
Enigma Variations (var. XII) - Edward Elgar

Notes: By far the most versatile instrument of the string section. With a huge pitch range but also incredible amount of expressive potential from pure heart break to hysterical passion. Alongside the orchestra leader you will often find the lead cellist is expected to play challenging solo sections of pieces.



Length: 24" (610mm)
Weight: 1.8lb (0.8kg)

Name: **(B♭) Clarinet** | Abreviation: **Cl** | Family: **Woods**

Otherwise Known As: **Clarinetto** | Transpose: ✓ | $B^{\flat}$ | +2 semis / halftones

Clef: 𝄞 | Range (sounds): E_3 - F_6

Sounds / Written

Common Variants: Bass Clarinet, Contrabass Clarinet

Repertoire:
The Rite of Spring - Stravinsky
Symphonic Dances form West Side Story (Somewhere) - Bernstein
Symphony No. 3 (mvt. IV) - Mahler

Notes: A single reeded instrument that creates a characterfully noble tone. It is a dynamic, melodic instrument with the potential for great versatility when placed in the hands of an expert. Clarinet players are known as Clarinetists.



Height: 4.5' (1.37m)
Weight: 30lb (14kg)

Name: **Tuba** | Abreviation: **Tuba** | Family: **Brass**

Otherwise Known As: **Colonel Fartworthy** | Transpose: X | C | 0 semis / halftones

Clef: 𝄢 | Range (sounds): A_1 - $B_3^{\flat}$

Writes the same as sounds.

Common Variants: Contrabass Tuba, Euphonium, Cimbasso

Repertoire:
Don Quixote - Strauss
The Planets (Mars) - Holst
Symphony No. 15 (mvt. II) - Shostakovich

Notes: What bassoons do for winds tubas do for brass. From comedic pumping short notes to warm round bottom end to a growl that nightmares are made of. Due to the incredible length of tubing tuba players have to push air down; fast passages offer a particular that demand blowing quite far ahead of the beat.



Height: 6' (1.83m)
Weight: 25lb (11.3kg)

Name: **Bass** | Abreviation: **CB** | Family: **Strings**

Otherwise Known As: **Contrabasso** | Transpose: ✓ | C | +12 semis / halftones

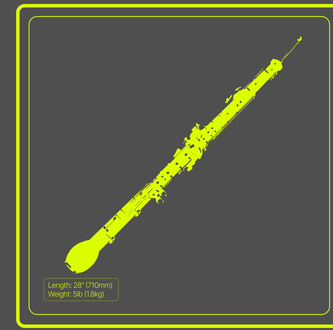
Clef: 𝄢 | Range (sounds): E_1 - C_5

Sounds / Written

Common Variants: String Bass, C Extended Bass

Repertoire:
Symphony No. 3 (mvt. IV) - Beethoven
Symphonie Fantastique (mvt. I) - Berlioz
Symphonic Dances (Cool Fugue) - Bernstein

Notes: The stand up bass, string bass, jazz bass and contrabass are all one in the same instrument. The bass will often play in octave unison (or an octave down) with the cellists sitting in front of them. Whilst short notes can be challenging, bass players are usually very adept at pizzicato playing due to many hours spent playing jazz.



Length: 28" (710mm)
Weight: 5lb (1.8kg)

Name: **Cor Anglais** | Abreviation: **EH** | Family: **Woods**

Otherwise Known As: **English Horn** | Transpose: ✓ | F | +7 semis / halftones

Clef: 𝄞 | Range (sounds): E_3 - $B_5^{\flat}$

Sounds / Written

Common Variants: Oboe D'Amore, Bass Oboe

Repertoire:
Symphony No 9 (mvt. II) - Dvořák
Romeo and Juliet - Tchaikovsky
Alpine Symphony, Op. 64 - Strauss

Notes: Often when you hear an Oboe in film scores it is in fact a Cor Anglais. With a slightly more round and pleasing tone to the oboe. It has less integrity in its intonation compared to the accuracy of the Oboe which lends to a distinctly helplessness favoured by film composers.



Height: 28" (710mm)
Weight: 10lb (4.5kg)

Name: **Euphonium** | Abreviation: **Euph** | Family: **Brass**

Otherwise Known As: **Tenor Tuba** | Transpose: ✓ | $B^{\flat}$ | 0/+14 semis / halftones

Clef: 𝄢/𝄞 | Range (sounds): B_1 - E_5

Sounds (as written for brass band players) / Written (as transposing for trombones doubling)

Common Variants: Tuba, Tenor Horn

Repertoire:
Symphony No. 7 - Shostakovich
Symphonie Fantastique - Berlioz
Alpine Symphony - Strauss

Notes: Euphoniums do not figure much in orchestral music despite their prevalence in marching bands and the Colliery Brass Band tradition in UK. A heartbreaking warm instrument with an instability in tuning that lends to a choral effect when a number of are employed. When "doubled" by a trombonist it transposes. Colliery players play at 'concert'



Height: 6' (1.8m)
Weight: 100lb (45kg)

Name: **Harp** | Abreviation: **Arp** | Family: **Strings**

Otherwise Known As: **Arp** | Transpose: ✓ | C | 0 semis / halftones

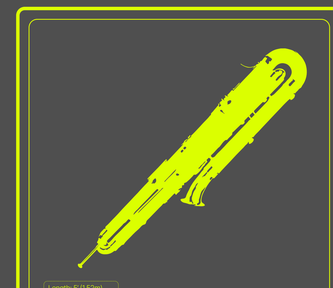
Clef: 𝄞 | Range (sounds): C_1 - G_7

8va / 8va

Common Variants: Bass Clarinet, Contrabass Clarinet

Repertoire:
Symphony No. 3 (mvt. IV) - Beethoven
Syprnhony No. 35 (mvt. IV) - Mozart
La Mer - Debussy

Notes: Does an instrument get more nobel than this. With heavenly connotations. A mistake often made is that if you can play it on a piano you can play it on a harp. Where in fact the instrument has a complex set of pedals that make chromatic phrasing more challenging. Its happiest playing within a key for best results.



Length: 5' (1.52m)
Weight: 18lb (8kg)

Name: **Contrabassoon** | Abreviation: **CBn** | Family: **Woods**

Otherwise Known As: **Contrafagotto** | Transpose: ✓ | C | +12 semis / halftones

Clef: 𝄢 | Range (sounds): $B_0^{\flat}$ - A_3

Sounds / Written

Common Variants: Bassoon

Repertoire:
Symphony No. 1 (mvt. III) - Mahler
Symphony No. 9 (mvt. IV) - Beethoven
The Firebird - Stravinsky

Notes: The contrabassoon provides the orchestra with its lowest note. But also incredible sub tones that emanate from this large double reeded instruments. Mournful and rich when played quietly in contrast to the sheer tonal monstrosity when played low and loud.



Length: 5' (1.52m)
Weight: 15lb (6.8kg)

Name: **Cimbasso** | Abreviation: **Cimb** | Family: **Brass**

Otherwise Known As: **Ear Bastard** | Transpose: ✓ | F | +7 semis / halftones

Clef: 𝄢 | Range (sounds): F_1 - F_4

Sounds / Written

Common Variants: Tuba, Trombones

Repertoire:
The Ring Cycle - Wagner
Otello - Verdi
La Bohème - Puccini

Notes: Less common in the common orchestral repetoire these instruments have see a resurgence in recent years because they lend well to epic music scores. Playing in a similar pitch to Tubas but with a room shaking rasp you'll never get over if you ever stand next to one being played.



Diameter: 32"(810mm)
Weight: 90lb (40kg)

Name: **Timpani** | Abreviation: **Timp** | Family: **Perc**

Otherwise Known As: **Kettle Drums** | Transpose: ✓ | C | 0 semis / halftones

Clef: 𝄢 | Range (sounds): C_2 - C_4

32" 29" 26" 23"

Common Variants: are there any?

Repertoire:
1812 Overture - Tchaikovsky
Fanfare for the Common Man - Copeland
Symphony No. 5 (mvt. I) - Beethoven

Notes: For something you hit with a big mallet the timpani is a remarkably refined and dynamic instrument. It will take you from soft tentative tones to sheer thunder. They are tuned using pedals so imagine that this would be like writing for a harp with only 4 strings.



Length: 12" (300mm)
Weight: 7.3lb (0.15kg)

Name: **Piccolo** | Abreviation: **Picc** | Family: **Woods**

Otherwise Known As: **Any Chance You Could Play That Quieter?** | Transpose: ✓ | C | -12 semis / halftones

Clef: 𝄞 | Range (sounds): D_5 - D_8

Sounds / Written

Common Variants: Concert Flute, Alto Flute

Repertoire:
Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy - Tchaikovsky
Symphony No. 10 (mvt. II) - Shostakovich
Overture to The Thieving Magpie - Rossini

Notes: These are the lone wolves of the orchestra (a polite way fo saying unpopular). That is because they produce the loudest and shrillest of tones. Played quietly they have a whistle like character (think military bands). But at full pelt are the instrument that will take the orchestra to 11.



Length: 20' (510mm)
Weight: 4lb (1.8kg)

Name: **Cornet** | Abreviation: **Kor** | Family: **Brass**

Otherwise Known As: **Cornetto** | Transpose: ✓ | $B^{\flat}$ | +2 semis / halftones

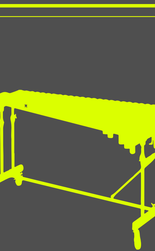
Clef: 𝄞 | Range (sounds): E_3 - $B_5^{\flat}$

Sounds / Written

Common Variants: Trumpet, Flugelhorn, Sackbutt

Repertoire:
Roman Carnival Overture - Berlioz
Rhapsody in Blue - Gershwin
Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1 - Elgar

Notes: Basically a piccolo trumpet often used as a solo instrument with a sound often associated with a militaristic tradition.



Length: 4' (1.2m)
Weight: 50lb (23kg)

Name: **Xylophone** | Abreviation: **Xylo** | Family: **Perc**

Otherwise Known As: **Xylo** | Transpose: ✓ | C | +12 semis / halftones

Clef: 𝄞 | Range (sounds): C_4 - C_8

8va / 8va

Common Variants: Marimba

Repertoire:
Carnival of the Animals (Fossils) - Saint-Saëns
Peter and the Wolf - Prokofiev
The Sorcerer's Apprentice (Finale) - Dukas

Notes: A bright tuned percussion instrument with truly virtuosic and gymnastic potential. A selection of different beaters can be employed to hit wooden bars with a very high register that cuts through nearly as much as a piccolo.



Height: 30" (760mm)
Weight: 7lb (3.2kg)

Name: **Tenor Saxophone** | Abreviation: **T. Sax** | Family: **Woods**

Otherwise Known As: **Sax** | Transpose: ✓ | $B^{\flat}$ | +14 semis / halftones

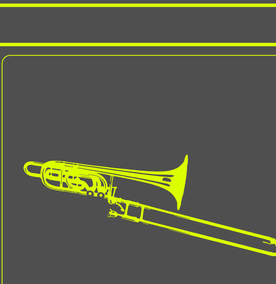
Clef: 𝄞 | Range (sounds): $A_2^{\flat}$ - $E_5^{\flat}$

Sounds / Written

Common Variants: Soprano, Alto, Baritone

Repertoire:
Boléro - Ravel
An American in Paris - Gershwin
Romeo and Juliet - Prokofiev

Notes: A latecomer to the orchestral party. This 19th century single reed instrument has great capacity for expression through use of vibrato, pitch, and dynamic. It is a lesser used but no lesser agile orchestral instrument. Saxophone players are known as saxophonists.



Length: 42" (1m)
Weight: 10lb (4.5kg)

Name: **Bass Trombone** | Abreviation: **BTbn** | Family: **Brass**

Otherwise Known As: **Bass Bone** | Transpose: ✓ | C | 0 semis / halftones

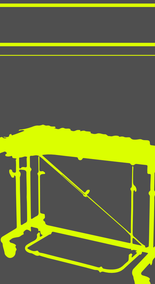
Clef: 𝄢 | Range (sounds): F_1 - C_4

Sounds / Written

Common Variants: Tenor, Contrabass Trombones, Cimbasso

Repertoire:
The Ring Cycle - Wagner
Symphonie Fantastique (Dream of a Witches' Sabbath) - Berlioz
The Rite of Spring - Stravinsky

Notes: If you're tempted to employ 3 x Trombones it's always great to swap out one for one of these. They have a rasping tone not dissimilar to a Cimbasso and ther lower Contrabass Trombone cousin takes the horror even further. The latter however is quite a rare instrument to find largely because of the physical demands on the player.



Length: 3' (1.2m)
Weight: 50lb (23kg)

Name: **Glockenspiel** | Abreviation: **Glock** | Family: **Perc**

Otherwise Known As: **Glock** | Transpose: ✓ | C | +12 semis / halftones

Clef: 𝄞 | Range (sounds): G_5 - C_8

8va / 8va

Common Variants: Vibraphone, Metallonphone, Celeste, Dulcitone

Repertoire:
Carnival of the Animals (Aquarium) - Saint-Saëns
Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy - Tchaikovsky
The Planets (Jupiter) - Holst

Notes: A super bright pitched percussion instrument that employs a different selection of (largely hard) beaters to play magical, mysteical and child like tones not unlike a music box. Like the Xylophone this instrument will cut through absolutely anything.

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CREDITS: **Research & Development:** Allan Glen & Christian Henson
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