

Instrument Transposition Chart

Grouped by key — each row shows the note a player reads to sound one concert B $\flat$.

		SOUNDING	WRITTEN	
B $\flat$ INSTRUMENTS	Clarinet in B $\flat$			Key: B$\flat$ Sounds a major 2nd lower
	Soprano Saxophone			Key: B$\flat$ Sounds a major 2nd lower
	Trumpet in B $\flat$			Key: B$\flat$ Sounds a major 2nd lower
	Tenor Saxophone			Key: B$\flat$ Sounds a major 9th lower
	Bass Clarinet in B $\flat$			Key: B$\flat$ Sounds a major 9th lower
E $\flat$ INSTRUMENTS	Clarinet in E $\flat$			Key: E$\flat$ Sounds a minor 3rd higher
	Alto Saxophone			Key: E$\flat$ Sounds a major 6th lower
	Baritone Saxophone			Key: E$\flat$ Sounds a major 13th lower
F INSTRUMENTS	English Horn			Key: F Sounds a perfect 5th lower
	Horn in F			Key: F Sounds a perfect 5th lower

WORKING THE CHART

READING A PART Move the written note **down** by the interval in its row.

WRITING A PART Move concert pitch **up** by the same interval. To sound a concert C, write D for trumpet, A for alto sax, G for horn.

THE EXCEPTION E $\flat$ clarinet sounds **higher** — reverse both directions above.



PRACTICE THIS FREE

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INSTRUMENT TRANSPOSITION CHART

		SOUNDING	WRITTEN	
A AND G INSTRUMENTS	Clarinet in A			Key: A Sounds a minor 3rd lower
	Alto Flute			Key: G Sounds a perfect 4th lower
MORE B $\flat$ INSTRUMENTS	Cornet · Flugelhorn			Key: B$\flat$ Sounds a major 2nd lower
	Euphonium (treble clef)			Key: B$\flat$ Sounds a major 9th lower
MORE E $\flat$ INSTRUMENTS	Trumpet in E $\flat$			Key: E$\flat$ Sounds a minor 3rd higher
	Alto Horn · Tenor Horn			Key: E$\flat$ Sounds a major 6th lower
	Horn in E $\flat$			Key: E$\flat$ Sounds a major 6th lower
C INSTRUMENTS	Piccolo			Key: C Sounds an octave higher
	Guitar			Key: C Sounds an octave lower
	Double Bass			Key: C Sounds an octave lower

WHY C INSTRUMENTS TRANPOSE AT ALL

SOUNDING
HIGHER

Piccolo and **xylophone** sound an octave above the printed note, **glockenspiel** two octaves, **celesta** one.

SOUNDING
LOWER

Guitar, **double bass** and **contrabassoon** sound an octave below.

THE REASON

Printing these at true pitch would bury them in ledger lines. The octave is a legibility convention, not something the player thinks about.



MORE FREE PRACTICE

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