

Unit 1 – Introduction to your Chalumeau

Chalumeau Fingerings

C D E F F# G A Bb B C C# D

Thumb ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ○ ○
LEFT
HAND

● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ○ ● ● ●
● ● ● ● ● ● ● ○ ○ ● ● ●
● ● ● ● ● ○ ● ○ ● ○ ○ ○ ○

RIGHT
HAND

● ● ● ● ○ ○ ○ ● ○ ○ ○ ○ ○
● ● ● ○ ● ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○
● ● ○ ○ ● ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○
● ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○

● = hole covered
○ = hole open

Top Tips

- **Make sure the reed is straight and lined up with the top of the mouthpiece**
- **Tighten ligature enough to hold the reed securely**
- **use your bottom lip as a cushion**
- **grip the mouthpiece with your top teeth**
- **smile – to keep your cheeks in**
- **gently grip mouthpiece and use diaphragm to support your blowing**
- **Use a STEADY stream of air. You don't need a new breath for the start of every note**
- **Make sure you start all your notes using your tongue**
- **Practise blowing long notes**

HELP!! – I Can't get a sound out of my chalumeau

HELP!! – I'm squeaking

- **check your reed is on correctly**
- **have you got too little mouthpiece in your mouth? 1cm to 2cm is enough.**
- **Try a little more pressure from lower lip and teeth**
- **Are you blowing hard enough.**
- **Make sure you are not puffing out your cheeks – SMILE**

And after playing

Make sure you dry your chalumeau thoroughly when you have finished playing, especially the mouthpiece.

If you can, leave it out for 15 minutes before you put it back in its case.