

Whistle - First Steps 2.1: Three More Notes

Now we're going to learn the notes **E**, **F#** and **D**. Start off in the first position, the top three holes covered by the index finger, middle finger and ring finger of your left hand (the **G** note). Now cover the 4th hole down and blow the note. This is the **F#** note (called "**F sharp**").

Next cover the top five holes and blow the note; this is the **E** note.

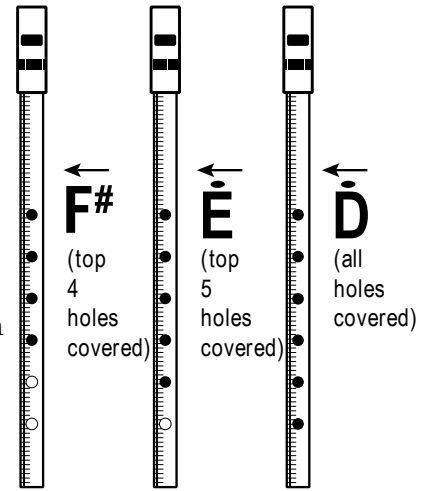
Now try the **D** note, six fingers down. The **D** is the most difficult

note so far, and you need to learn how softly to blow through the whistle in order to get this note. Very often people cannot get the note to begin with, but it does come with time. Just breathe softly into the mouthpiece to achieve the note.

Now we're going back to *Au Clair de la Lune* and learning the next line. The most difficult part will be going from the end of bar 5 (the **A** note) to

the beginning of bar 6 (the **E** note), because you need to place three fingers onto the holes simultaneously.

At the end of bar 8 you can see the letters "**D.C.**". That translates as *da capo* (Italian for "the head"), and it means go back to the beginning (or the head of the page). At the end of



bar 4 you have *fine* ("end"), so once you have repeated the top line of music, stop.

2.2: *Au Clair de la Lune* (2)

2.3: *Egan's Polka*

The next tune, *Egan's Polka*, is a test of finger dexterity. This time you have to go from the **B** note (just the top hole covered) to the **D** note (all holes covered).

You'll find this difficult at first, but it's great practise for you, because this is the sort of thing you must get used to to play more tunes.

Any musical instrument involves certain physical aspects: on the whistle it's getting to know how hard (or how softly) to blow, getting

used to covering the holes properly, and learning to lift and replace various combinations of fingers.

Egan's Polka (1) (traditional Irish)