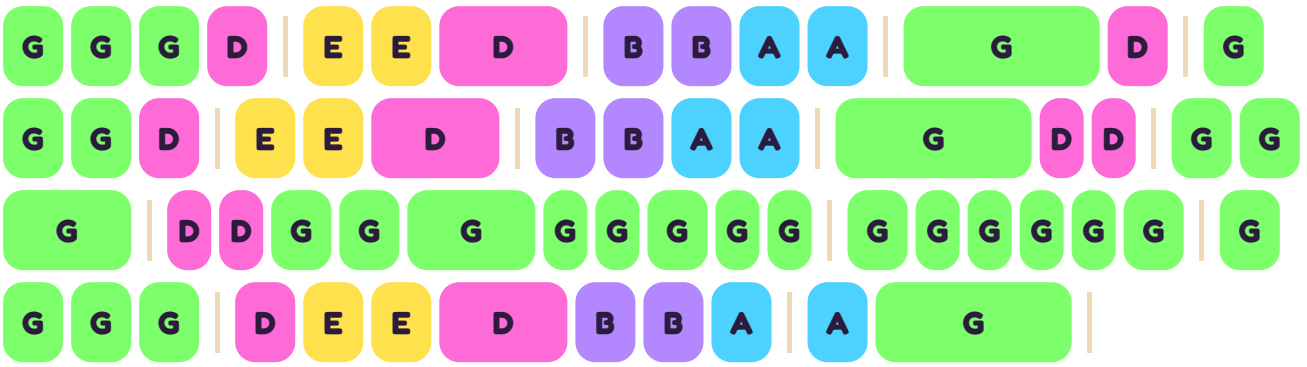
Easy

How to play Old MacDonald Had a Farm on the recorder

Old MacDonald Had a Farm recorder notes with letters, easy for beginners, with a fingering chart for each note.

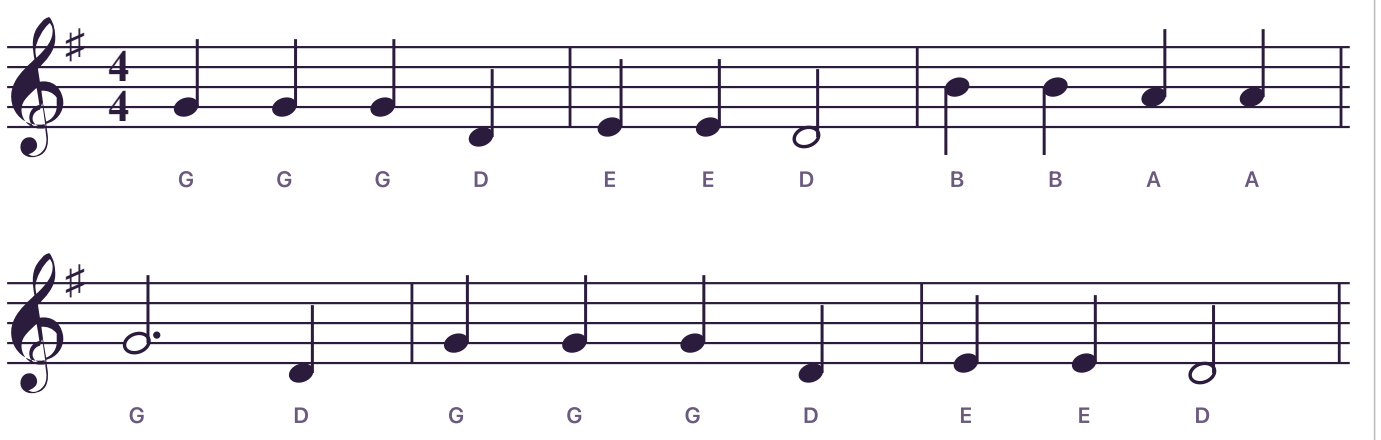
The farm song everybody knows, with its "E-I-E-I-O" and the "moo moo here" verse (almost all G). It uses low D and E, so blow very gently on those. It uses 5 notes: low D, low E, G, A and B. Below are the notes with their rhythm, and the fingering for each one.

The notes



Longer blocks are longer notes; a line marks each bar.

Sheet music



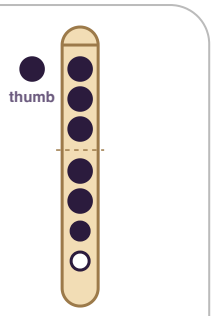
The same song in standard notation, with each note's name under it.

The notes as letters

G G G D E E D B B A A G D G G G D E E D B B A
A G D D G G G D D G G G G G G G G G G G G G G
G G G G D E E D B B A A G

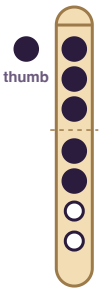
All for a soprano (descant) recorder, with baroque (English) fingering.

Fingerings



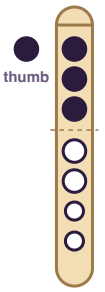
low D

Thumb hole covered, holes 1 2 3 4 5 6 covered



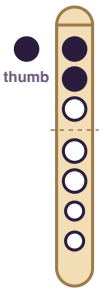
low E

Thumb hole covered, holes 1 2 3 4 5 covered



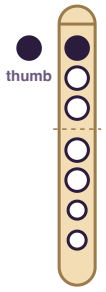
G

Thumb hole covered, holes 1 2 3 covered



A

Thumb hole covered, holes 1 2 covered



B

Thumb hole covered, hole 1 covered

Tap Play to hear a note; tap a fingering card to see how to play it. Filled holes are covered. The left hand is on top (thumb behind, holes 1–3), the right hand below (holes 4–7).

Tips

- Say "doo" into the recorder for each note: the tongue starts every note, so repeated notes sound separate.
- Blow gently, like cooling soup. Too much air makes a squeak an octave up.
- Cover the holes with the soft pads of your fingers, not the tips, so no air leaks out.
- Low D needs the gentlest breath of all, and every hole sealed: if it squeaks, check your bottom fingers first.