

Thumbs Up!

We have 3 useable fingerings for B^b and/or A[#] ! We must concede, however, that in each scale/key there is one best fingering for B^b/A[#]. How to we get around saying one best fingering? Simple! The flute is an non-sentient piece of machinery. The mechanics of the instrument work best when:

- ♦ as few keys as possible are moving on the change between notes
- ♦ keys moving in opposite directions on a not change are minimized
- ♦ the key change is operated by a free (not in use!) finger

What does this mean for us? Again simple! The flutist is the sentient being in the equation. The flute predetermines the best operating mode according individual situation; therefore the flutist must exercise care and logic in selecting the best fingering for the flute ... and if need be, change habits and practices. In other words, the keying is set, the fingerings must be selected: the flute determines which keys must be in play and the flutist is obligated to accommodate!

Here are the rules:

- ♦ If A[#] and B[#] ... or B^b and C are side by side in a scale, use the B^b-thumb key. *NOTE: high F[#] and G^b do not permit use of the B^b-thumb key; and so, therefore, when playing scales/arpeggios with high tessitura or third octaves which use high F[#] or G^b, you will need to reposition the thumb to the regular thumb-key as you cross the thumbless notes of C, C[#], D^b just above the staff going up and return it to the B^b-thumb key as you pass these notes on the descent.*
- ♦ If A[#] and B ... or B^b and C^b are side by side in a scale, use the side-A[#] key
- ♦ The “i + i” fingering is only useful in two arpeggios and therefore should be avoided for scales and arpeggios.

Key	B ^b -Thumb	Side-A [#]
c minor natural	YES	
c minor melodic	YES	
D ^b / C [#] Major	YES, But off G ^{b3}	
c [#] minor melodic	YES	
d minor natural	YES	
d minor harmonic	YES	
d minor melodic	YES	
E ^b major scale	YES	
E ^b major arpeggio	YES	
e ^b /d [#] minor natural		YES
e ^b /d [#] minor harmonic		YES
e ^b /d [#] minor melodic	YES	
e ^b /d [#] minor melodic		YES
e ^b /d [#] minor arpeggio	YES	
F major scale	YES	
f minor, all forms	YES	
F [#] /G ^b Major scale		YES
F [#] /G ^b Major arp.	YES, off F ^{#3}	
g minor natural	YES	
g minor harmonic	YES, off F ^{#3}	
g minor melodic	YES, off F ^{#3}	
g minor melodic	YES	
g minor arpeggio	YES	
g [#] /a ^b min., all forms		YES
A ^b major	YES	
B ^b major scale	YES	
B ^b major arpeggio	YES	
b ^b /a [#] minor, nat.	YES, off G ^{b3}	
b ^b /a [#] minor, harm.	YES, off G ^{b3}	
b ^b /a [#] minor, mel.	YES	
b ^b /a [#] minor, mel.	YES, off G ^{b3}	
b ^b /a [#] minor, arp.	YES	
B/C ^b major		YES
b minor, harmonic		YES
b minor, melodic		YES
B ^b maj., b ^b min. arp.	i + i fingering okay	