

BIG FLUTES!

Alto Flute

- ❖ Flute in G, transposing instrument notated a 4th above actual sound. When it plays a written C², it sounds G¹. **To tune to an A, you play a D.**
- ❖ Less penetrating sound. Larger bore. Heavy weight requires caution in posture and practicing for extended periods.
- ❖ Curved vs. straight headjoint:
 - Curved—more comfortable, but since tone holes are closer to the player, sound is perceived as being louder. More difficult to move between low and middle octaves—not as fluid. Generally, less responsive.
 - Straight—requires longer reach, potentially less comfortable. More responsive, better connection between octaves.
- ❖ TONE: requires a much looser embouchure, wider aperture, uncovering much more of the hole than on a standard C flute. Can roll headjoint out. Does not project well. Tends to blend “too” well with other instruments in same range. Requires much more air. Open oral cavity—drop tongue, raise soft palate. RELAX and BLOW!!
- ❖ PITCH: tends to be sharp in middle-upper register (requires overblowing).
- ❖ ARTICULATION: greater use of air makes articulation more challenging. Need to anticipate potentially late attacks.

Bass Flute

- ❖ Flute in C, pitched one octave below the C flute.
- ❖ To play, apply many of the same principles as alto flute, but even looser, more relaxed, less responsive, etc.
- ❖ Large bore requires winged headjoint, deep chimney.
- ❖ Detachable crutch necessary for hand support.
- ❖ Some equipped with a B-footjoint.

Contra-Bass Flute

- ❖ Flute in G, pitched a fourth below the bass flute
- ❖ Flute in C, two octaves below the C flute (an 8ve below bass flute)

Sub-Bass Flute

- ❖ Flute in F, a fifth below bass flute
- ❖ Few in existence

Double Contrabass Flute

- ❖ Flute in C, two octaves below bass flute
- ❖ VERY few in existence, very expensive (more than \$35,000)!

Resources:

Wye, Trevor, and Patricia Morris. *The Alto Flute Practice Book*. London: Novello & Co. Ltd., 1995.

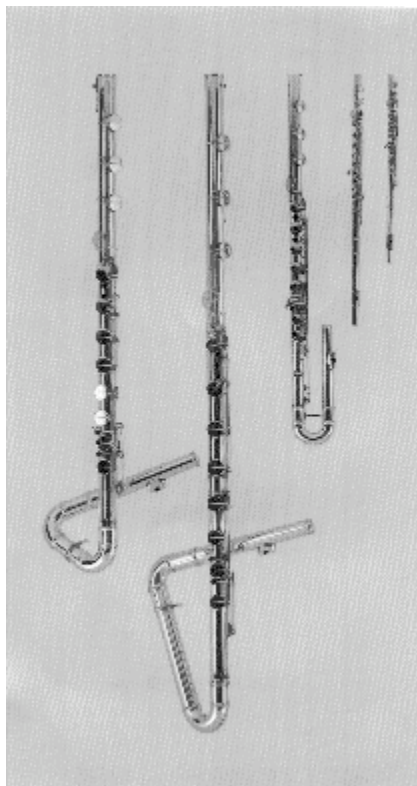
Andersen, Mark, and Irene Maddox. *An Artist's Guide to Alto and Bass Flute*. Charlotte, N.C.: Pan Publications, 1983.

Websites:

www.svsu.edu/flutee/altobass.html

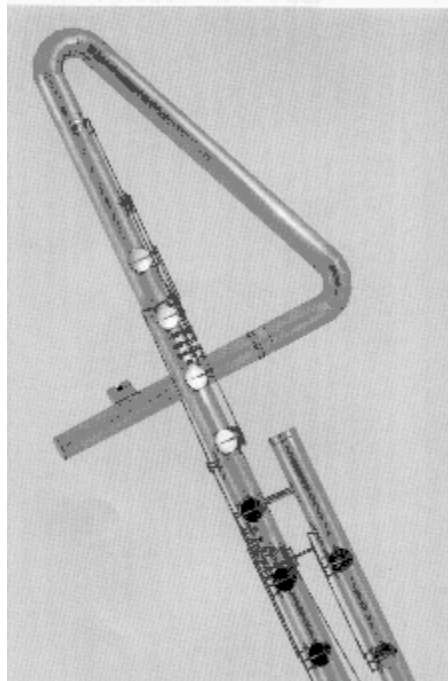
altoflute.net

www.contrabass.com/pages/flutes.html (photos below)



Kotato Flutes

(L-R: bass flute in F, contrabass flute in C, bass flute in C, flute in C, soprano flute in F)

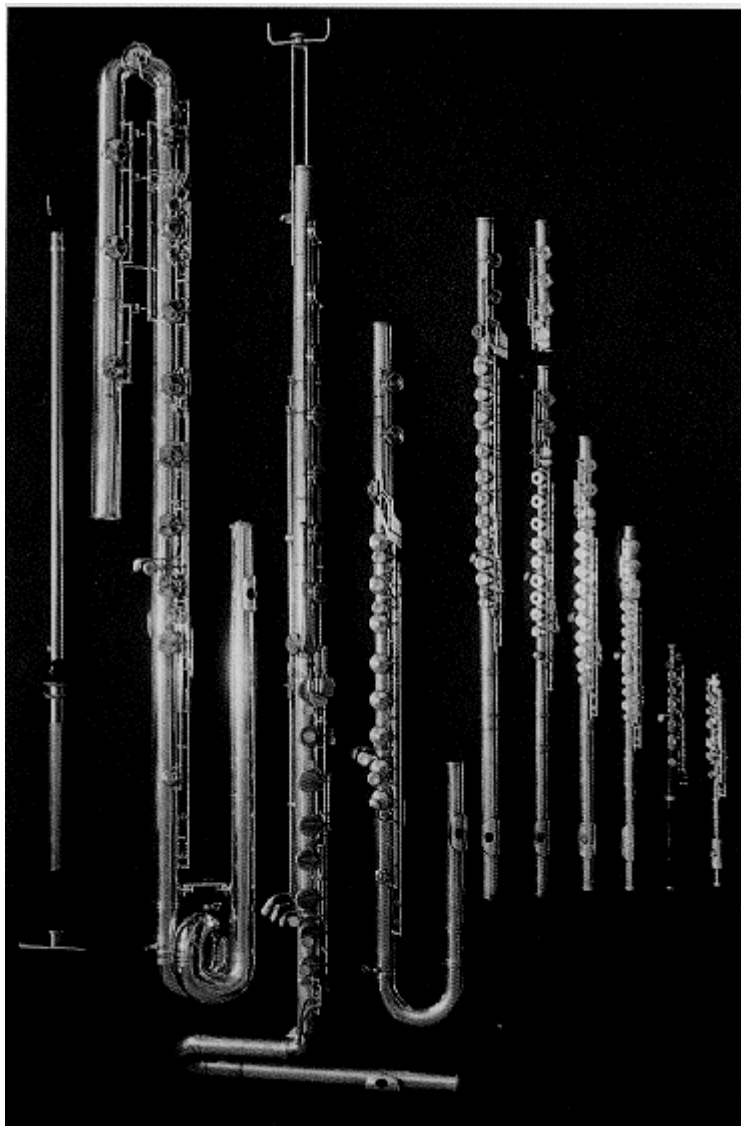


**Kotato Double
Contrabass in C**
(2 8ves below
bass flute)

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Piccolo to octocontrabass...

(L-R: Octocontrabass, Contrabass (with unusual T-shaped headjoint), Bass, Alto, C Flute (with C-foot and B-foot), E-flat flute, F flute, C piccolo, D-flat piccolo)



Photos courtesy of www.contrabass.com/pages/flutes.html.