

Transposition

- The following chart lists non-transposing instruments (instruments whose parts are written in concert pitch), followed by transposing instruments. The chart is for conventional orchestral instruments.

Non-Transposing Instruments

Instrument	Sounds	Clef
Violin	Concert Pitch	Treble
Viola	Concert Pitch	Alto/Treble
Cello	Concert Pitch	Bass
Harp	Concert Pitch	Grand Staff
Flute	Concert Pitch	Treble
Oboe	Concert Pitch	Treble
Bassoon	Concert Pitch	Bass
Trombone	Concert Pitch	Bass
Bass Trombone	Concert Pitch	Bass/Tenor
Tuba	Concert Pitch	Bass
Marimba	Concert Pitch	Treble
Vibraphone	Concert Pitch	Treble
Timpani	Concert Pitch	Bass
Piano	Concert Pitch	Grand Staff
Organ	Concert Pitch	Grand Staff
Harpsichord	Concert Pitch	Grand Staff

Transposing Instruments

Instrument	Sounds	Clef
Double Bass	Sounds one Perfect 8 ^{ve} lower than written	Bass
Guitar	Sounds one Perfect 8 ^{ve} lower than written	Treble
Piccolo	Sounds one Perfect 8 ^{ve} higher than written	Treble
Alto Flute	Sounds one Perfect 4 th lower than written	Treble
English Horn (Cor Anglais)	Sounds one Perfect 5 th lower than written	Treble
Clarinet in Bb	Sounds one Major 2 nd lower than written	Treble
Clarinet in A	Sounds one Minor 3 rd lower than written	Treble
Bass Clarinet in Bb	Sounds one Major 9 th lower than written	Bass
Contrabassoon	Sounds one Perfect 8 ^{ve} lower than written	Bass
Soprano Sax in Bb	Sounds one Major 2 nd lower than written	Treble
Alto Sax in Eb	Sounds one Major 6 th lower than written	Treble
Tenor Sax in Bb	Sounds one Major 9 th lower than written	Treble
Baritone Sax in Eb	Sounds one Major 14 th lower than written	Treble
French Horn (in F)	Sounds one Perfect 5 th lower than written	Treble
Trumpet in Bb	Sounds one Major 2 nd lower than written	Treble
Glockenspiel	Sounds two Perfect 8 ^{ve} higher than written	Treble
Xylophone	Sounds one Perfect 8 ^{ve} higher than written	Treble
Celesta	Sounds one Perfect 8 ^{ve} higher than written	Grand Staff

- Aside from the standard orchestral instruments listed above there are other transposing instruments that are sometimes used, particularly for clarinets, trumpets and horns.

Instrument	Sounds	Clef
Clarinet in Eb	Sounds one Minor 3 rd higher than written	Treble
Clarinet in D	Sounds one Major 2 nd higher than written	Treble
Alto Horn in Bb	Sounds one Major 2 nd lower than written	Treble
Horn in A	Sounds one Minor 3 rd lower than written	Treble
Basso Horn in Bb	Sounds one Major 9 th lower than written	Bass
Horn in C	Sounds one Perfect 8 ^{ve} lower than written	Treble
Horn in D	Sounds one Minor 7 th lower than written	Treble
Horn in Eb	Sounds one Major 6 th lower than written	Treble
Horn in E	Sounds one Minor 6 th lower than written	Treble
Horn in G	Sounds one Perfect 4 th lower than written	Treble
Trumpet in A	Sounds one Minor 3 rd lower than written	Treble
Trumpet in D	Sounds one Major 2 nd higher than written	Treble
Trumpet in Eb	Sounds one Minor 3 rd higher than written	Treble
Trumpet in F	Sounds one Perfect 4 th higher than written	Treble
Trumpet in G	Sounds one Perfect 5 th higher than written	Treble

- Musicians need to be aware of the different spellings used in other languages for score analysis:

English	A	Bb	F	Eb	D
Italian / French	La	Si bemolle/bemol	Fa	Mi bemolle/bemol	Re
German	A	B	F	Es	D

The English note B is called H in German. Bach used to sign his manuscripts with the notes B-A-C-H, which would be Bb-A-C-B in English! So remember you may see *Klarinette in B* on a score – it means ‘Clarinet in Bb’!