

Going Irish on Low Flutes Handout:

Ornamentation:

Cut: a very short grace note higher than the melody note being cut. It can be the next note up or can be rather distant, such as a thumb “back D” cut on lower-hand notes on the uilleann pipes. It's common to cut all the lower-hand notes with A on whistle, flute, and pipes.

Pat: a very short grace note lower than the melody note being patted. It can be the next note down or rather distant, such as Bottom D pats on upper-hand notes such as A and B on the uilleann pipes.

Scrape: a longer appoggiatura from note below

Roll: created from cuts and pats in a variety of combinations.

Most common is three melody notes separated first with a cut and then with a pat:

for example: note(cut)note(pat)note

Cran: 3 cuts on a D or E in quick succession to give a bubbling effect

CUTS - ORNAMENTS ABOVE THE NOTE

Information on Cuts:

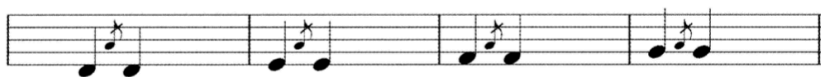
- A cut is a quick, single grace note which is played at the start of the main tone or the main note.
- The most basic cuts are played between repeated notes (e.g. to separate two A notes). Cuts are also used to accentuate notes.
- Cuts need to be executed in a very subtle manner and should be very brief in length.

Fingering for cuts:

- **D,E,F and G Notes:**

I cut using a flick of the G Finger (the 3rd finger from the top).

See below:



- **A Note:**

I cut using a flick of the A finger (the 2nd finger from the top/middle finger).



- **B Note:**

I cut using a flick of the 1st finger (the top finger).



TAPS - ORNAMENTS BELOW THE NOTE

You always use the finger directly below the main note to execute a tap.
 For example if you play the note E, a tap is executed by quickly lowering and raising your bottom finger. (With this E tap, the predominant note that you should hear throughout, is the E note).

Taps need to be subtle, brief and crisp.

Fingering for taps:

Remember to use the finger directly below the sounded note to tap.

E tap (Use D finger/ bottom finger)

F tap (Use E Finger/middle finger)

G Tap (Use F Finger/index finger)

A Tap (Use G Finger/ring finger)

B Tap (Use A Finger/middle finger)

Practice the taps on their own before playing the roll to ensure that they are used effectively.

TAP Exercise:

Take each note. Practice tapping each note several times.



ROLLS ~

Long Rolls: Play the note, Cut the note, Tap the note

Long Rolls in Words:

E finger E, cut with G key tap D key

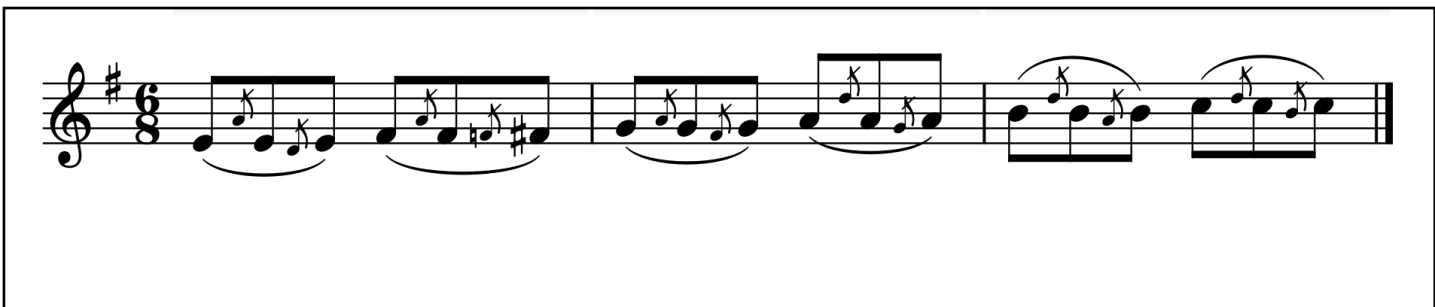
F# finger F#, cut with G key, tap F key

G finger G, cut with G key, tap F# key

A finger A, cut with 1st trill key, tap G key

B finger B, cut with 1st trill key, tap A key

C finger C, cut with 1st trill key, tap thumb key



Some sources of tunes:

ITMA - Irish Traditional Music Archive

Music of Ireland - Francis O'Neill (1903)

thesession.org - website with notated versions of tunes and information forum

Irish tune books 1 and 2, Living Tradition *Ossian publications*

Irish Session Tunes - Red Book, Orange Book, Blue Book *Ossian*

Traditional Music in Ireland - Tomás O Cannain

Ancient Irish music - Edward Bunting (1796)

Please note that tunes are played differently in local regions of Ireland so the same tune may be notated differently in each collection. They can also be notated in an instrument specific way which may have to be adapted to another instrument.

Take each setting of a tune as a starting point or guideline, get the outline under your fingers and then make it your own by improvising, playing with others and investigating other sources both written and recorded.

3 categories of Irish music in ancient times:

geantraí (pronounced *gantree*) - joyful music

goltraí (pronounced *goltree*) - sad, lamenting music

suantraí (pronounced *su-antree*) - sleep music or lullabies

Bibliography:

Timber - The Flute Tutor by Fintan Vallely

An Fheadóg Mór - Conal O'Grada

Fliúit - June McCormack

Companion to Irish Traditional Music - Fintan Vallely

Some Irish flute players to listen to:

Matt Molloy

Seamus Tansey

John McKenna

Peter Horan

Tom Doorley

Patsy Hanly

Harry Bradley

Conal O'Grada

Aoife Granville

John Wynne

Eamonn Cotter

Tara Diamond

Catherine McEvoy

Mike Rafferty

Joanie Madden

Orlaith McAuliffe

Cein Sweeney

Mike McGoldrick

Brian Finnegan

Alto Flute

Alto Flute

The Geese in The Bog

A

6

B

11

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for the first piece, 'The Geese in The Bog'. It consists of three staves of music in 6/8 time. The first staff begins with a boxed 'A' and contains measures 1 through 5. The second staff begins with a boxed 'B' and contains measures 6 through 10, ending with a repeat sign. The third staff contains measures 11 through 15, ending with a repeat sign.

The Miller of Glanmire or the Liltin' Banshee

A

5

1.

2.

B

10

1.

2.

15

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for the second piece, 'The Miller of Glanmire or the Liltin' Banshee'. It consists of three staves of music in 6/8 time. The first staff begins with a boxed 'A' and contains measures 1 through 4. The second staff contains measures 5 through 9, with first and second endings marked '1.' and '2.' above the staff. The third staff begins with a boxed 'B' and contains measures 10 through 14. The fourth staff contains measures 15 through 19, also with first and second endings marked '1.' and '2.' above the staff.

Alto Flute

Glen Cottage Polka no. 1

Musical score for Glen Cottage Polka no. 1, Alto Flute. The piece is in 2/4 time. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff begins with a boxed 'A' above the first measure. The second staff begins with a '7' above the first measure and a boxed 'B' above the fifth measure. The third staff begins with a '13' above the first measure and features two first/second endings, labeled '1.' and '2.', above the final two measures.

Glen Cottage Polka no. 2

Musical score for Glen Cottage Polka no. 2, Alto Flute. The piece is in 2/4 time. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff begins with a boxed 'A' above the first measure. The second staff begins with a '7' above the first measure and a boxed 'B' above the fifth measure. The third staff begins with a '12' above the first measure.

Alto Flute

Princess Royal or Miss McDermott's

Musical score for Alto Flute, titled "Princess Royal or Miss McDermott's". The score is in 4/4 time and consists of six staves of music. The first staff begins with a boxed section labeled "A". The second staff starts at measure 4. The third staff starts at measure 8 and includes a boxed section labeled "B". The fourth staff starts at measure 12 and features two triplet markings. The fifth staff starts at measure 16 and features a triplet marking. The sixth staff starts at measure 20 and includes first and second endings.

Mo Chaomra Bhán - My Little White Lamb

Musical score for Alto Flute, titled "Mo Chaomra Bhán - My Little White Lamb". The score is in 3/4 time and consists of two staves of music. The first staff starts at measure 1. The second staff starts at measure 10 and features several slurs and accents.

Flute or Bass Flute or Contrabass Flute

Irish Tunes for Low Flutes

The Geese in The Bog

Musical score for 'The Geese in The Bog' in 6/8 time. The score consists of three staves of music. The first staff begins with a boxed 'A' and contains measures 1 through 5. The second staff begins with a boxed 'B' and contains measures 6 through 10, including a repeat sign. The third staff contains measures 11 through 15, ending with a repeat sign.

The Miller of Glanmire or the Liting Banshee

Musical score for 'The Miller of Glanmire or the Liting Banshee' in 6/8 time. The score consists of three staves of music. The first staff begins with a boxed 'A' and contains measures 1 through 4. The second staff contains measures 5 through 9, featuring first and second endings. The third staff begins with a boxed 'B' and contains measures 10 through 14. The fourth staff contains measures 15 through 18, also featuring first and second endings.

Flute

Glen Cottage Polka 1

Musical score for Glen Cottage Polka 1, Flute part. The score is written in 2/4 time and consists of three staves. The first staff begins with a boxed 'A' above the first measure. The second staff begins with a boxed 'B' above the first measure. The third staff contains first and second endings, labeled '1.' and '2.' above the respective measures. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4.

Glen Cottage Polka 2

Musical score for Glen Cottage Polka 2, Flute part. The score is written in 2/4 time and consists of three staves. The first staff begins with a boxed 'A' above the first measure. The second staff begins with a boxed 'B' above the first measure. The third staff contains first and second endings, labeled '1.' and '2.' above the respective measures. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4. Accents (>) are placed above several notes in the second and third staves.

Flute

The Princess Royal or Miss McDermott's

A



1. 2. **B**



Mo Chaomra Bhán - My Little White Lamb

