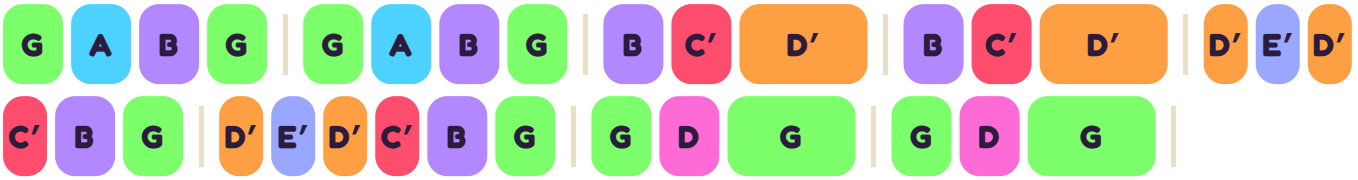
A little challenge · 7 notes

How to play Frère Jacques on the ocarina

Frère Jacques ocarina notes with color coding & letters, sheet music, fingering diagrams, and interactive audio practice.
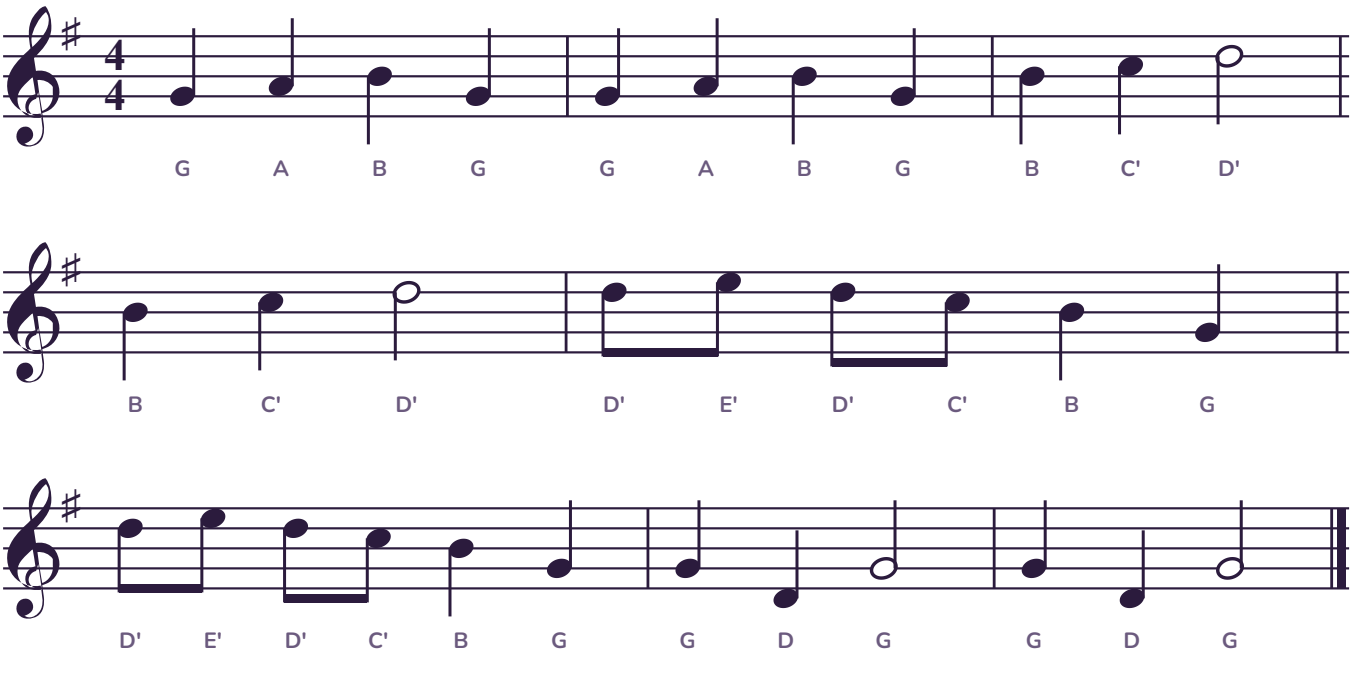
The French round about waking up Brother John. It climbs up to high E, which needs clean air support. It uses 7 notes: **D**, **G**, **A**, **B**, **C'**, **D'**, **E'**.

The notes & rhythm



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

Sheet music



Standard treble clef notation with letter guides below each note.

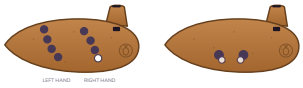
The notes as letters

G A B G G A B G B C′ D′ B C′ D′ D′ E′ D′ C′ B

G D′ E′ D′ C′ B G G D G G D G

Ocarina fingerings

D · low D



Front · finger holes

Back · thumb holes and extra sub-holes (open)

G · G



Front · finger holes

Back · thumb holes and extra sub-holes (open)

A · A



Front · finger holes

Back · thumb holes and extra sub-holes (open)

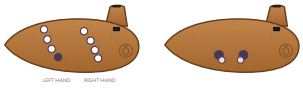
B · B



Front · finger holes

Back · thumb holes and extra sub-holes (open)

C' · high C



Front · finger holes

Back · thumb holes and extra sub-holes (open)

D' · high D



Front · finger holes

Back · thumb holes and extra sub-holes (open)

E' · high E



Front · finger holes

Back · thumb holes and extra sub-holes (open)

Playing tips for Frère Jacques

- Start each note cleanly with a gentle tongue stroke (whisper "too" or "doo").
- Seal every hole completely with the soft pads of your fingers, not your fingertips.
- The ocarina's pitch follows your breath: blowing softer lowers the pitch, blowing harder raises it.
- The low notes need the gentlest breath of all. If a low note warbles or squeaks, soften your breath and check that your lower fingers fully seal their holes.
- The highest notes need firm, focused breath. Raise your breath slightly and keep the ocarina level so the airstream splits cleanly.