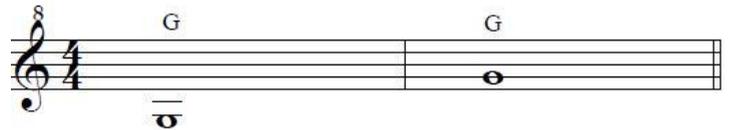


Your first note!

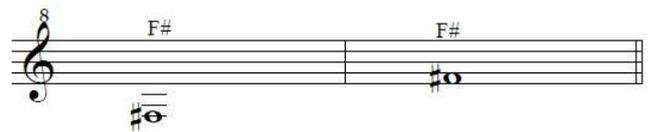
Holding the pipe as below and leaving all 3 finger holes open, blow very gently into the pipe. You should hear a quiet note. This is a G.



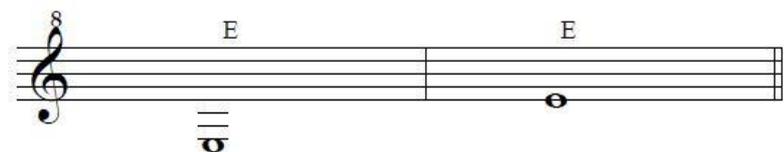
Now blow a little harder until you have a higher note which is also G. There are higher notes to play here, but concentrate on adjusting your air pressure just enough to achieve a low G and a high G. Play them several times.



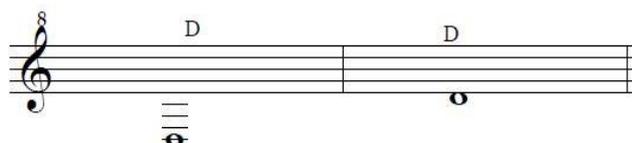
Now cover the thumb-hole and blow very gently for a low F# and harder for a high F#.



When you've got the hang of this, cover the thumb-hole and the top hole (index finger) and you should find low and high E.



Finally cover all 3 holes and find low and high D.

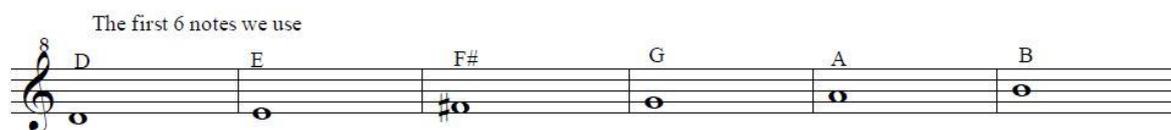


*(Hint – if any note is not sounding clearly, make sure your fingers are covering the holes completely, as even a small leak prevents a clear note) **You can cover the holes with the first joint of your fingers or in a flat fashion using the first and second joints of your fingers.***

“But”, you say, “this is 8 notes and I’m only supposed to be playing 6!” Well, the bad news is that the 4 lower notes are so quiet that they are never used! You can forget them straight away and concentrate on hitting those 4 higher notes D, E, F# and G. Play them up and down until you’re familiar with the sound and feel of them.

To add notes 5 and 6, play D (all holes covered) and increase your breath pressure till you hear a note which should be A, a tone higher than the G you’ve been playing. From A, lift off your middle finger and you should get B.

Now you have achieved 6 notes of the scale, from D to B. You have to get used to changing your breath pressure, and to finding different notes with the same fingering. It **will** become easier and automatic!



"A" is fingered the same as "D" but you have to blow a bit harder
"B" is fingered the same as "E" but you have to blow a bit harder.

Taboring

Don't be tempted to play the 3-hole pipe and ignore the taboring, or you might as well just play an ordinary 6-hole whistle. If you haven't yet acquired a tabor, a wooden spoon on the back of a chair makes a good substitute. It will feel strange and confusing at first, but with a bit of perseverance the technique gets easier.

The tabor stick should be held loosely but firmly so that it can move in your hand as it bounces off the skin of the tabor.

At first, play the 6 notes up and down, tapping the tabor once with each note. Then try varying your taboring – tap twice to each note or once on every second note etc.

When you're ready to try taboring and playing a tune together, try beating just the first beat of each bar. This will help you emphasise the most important beats in the tune and make it easier to add the lighter beats later. As you do this, you will probably find that the tune collapses! Don't worry; even the best player was once a beginner and struggled getting tune and taboring together!