

Specification Sheet for Dick Hensold's Instruments

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Bagpipes

Northumbrian smallpipes, D set

The timbre is dark and mellow, sort of like a cross between a clarinet and an English horn. Volume about 80 decibels. The chanter is stopped, so it plays rests and articulates like any other wind instrument. Principal keys are all modes of D and A, G major/ mixolydian/ dorian, E dorian/ mixolydian/ aeolian.

Chanter sounds:

Notated as written or a 4th higher

"T" and "P" indicate notes played by keys operated by the right thumb and left pinky fingers. Therefore, notes marked "T" cannot be adjacent to other notes marked "T" in fast passages, or slurred together in slow passages. Drones can be used in any combination, but changing from white notes to black notes requires retuning.

Northumbrian smallpipes, F set

This is the traditional pitch and sound of the Northumbrian smallpipes—a bright, chirpy sound slightly louder than the D set. Principal keys: All modes of F, C major and minor, B-flat major, G, all modes.

Chanter sounds:

Notated as written or a 2nd higher

Medieval Greatpipes

High, loud (108 decibels), full and bright tone. Principal keys are all modes of D and G major. I mic the drone when possible. Chanter and drone start simultaneously.

Chanter notated:

sounds an octave higher

Scottish Highland Bagpipe

The most familiar pipe. Plays in A Mixolydian, D, and B Aeolian (concert pitch B \flat mix, E \flat and F aeolian). And it is very loud.

Chanter notated:

sounds a semitone higher

Scottish Reel pipe

Similar in playing style to the Highland pipe, but a bit quieter with a rounder, darker tone. Plays in A Mixolydian, D, and B Aeolian at concert pitch.

Chanter notated:

sounds as written

Swedish säckpipa

The Swedish bagpipes are a very primitive instrument. Maintenance is high and tuning is unpredictable. Don't write for this without talking to me first about the instrument's limitations in performance.

A Minor Chanter: E Minor Chanter: Drone:



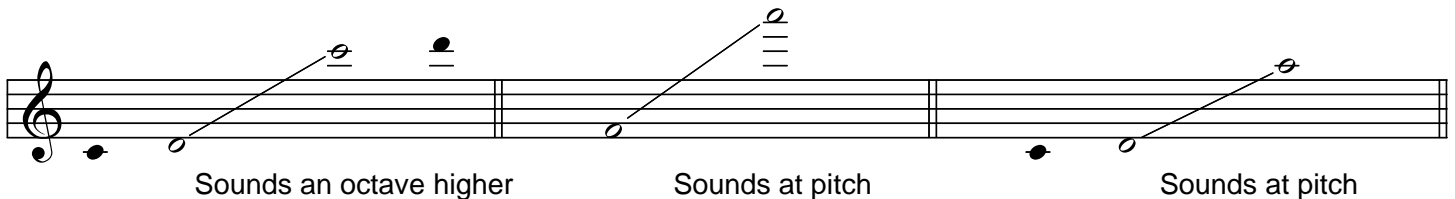
The image shows three musical staves. The first staff, labeled 'A Minor Chanter', contains a sequence of notes: A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3. The second staff, labeled 'E Minor Chanter', contains a sequence of notes: E2, F2, G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3. The third staff, labeled 'Drone', contains a single note: A2.

Recorders and Whistles

Soprano Recorder

Alto Recorder

Tenor Recorder



The image shows three musical staves. The first staff, labeled 'Soprano Recorder', shows a note on the first line (G4) with a diagonal line from a note on the first space (F4) below it, and the text 'Sounds an octave higher'. The second staff, labeled 'Alto Recorder', shows a note on the second line (C5) with a diagonal line from a note on the second space (B4) below it, and the text 'Sounds at pitch'. The third staff, labeled 'Tenor Recorder', shows a note on the second space (B4) with a diagonal line from a note on the second line (A4) below it, and the text 'Sounds at pitch'.

Recorders are chromatic within ranges indicated. My tenor (an Adriana Breukink slide tenor prototype) has dynamic capabilities that also give it a range of timbre from rich and reedy to thin and wispy.

Low whistle in D

Soft, breathy, and mellow. Only practical in the keys of D, G, Em, etc.



The image shows a musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are: D2, E2, F#2, G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F#3, G3, A3, B3, C4, D4.

Standard D pennywhistle has the same scale but sounds an octave higher. I also have standard whistles in the keys of B \flat , C, E \flat , and F.

Seljefløyte

Traditional Norwegian shepherd's flute, plays only the overtone series. Very soft, but evocative.



The image shows a musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are: D2, E2, F#2, G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F#3, G3, A3, B3, C4, D4. Below the staff is the text 'sounds an octave higher'.

Gemshorn

A kind of medieval recorder made from a cow's horn. Soft, the sound is a cross between a wooden flute and an ocarina.



The image shows a musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are: D2, E2, F#2, G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F#3, G3, A3, B3, C4, D4.