

Introduction to Transposition:

On a transposing instrument, the sound that comes out of the instrument does not match the note name. For example: a clarinet fingers the note C, but the sound is Bb. This makes it easier on the player because they don't have to read as many sharps and flats. However, this is harder on anyone who is writing out music because they have to transpose it so that it sounds right. If you play a transposing instrument, you may have discovered this when you try to play the piano part and it didn't sound right.

This chart can help you transpose the part so that you can play along:

Instrument	C (Fl, Ob)	Bb (Cl, Tpt)	Eb (Sax)	F (Hn)	Low C (tbn, tba)
transposition from C	None, or octave (P8)	up a whole step (M2)	up a M6	up a P5	down an octave (P8)
	C	D	A	G	C
	C#/Db	D#/Eb	A#/Bb	G#/Ab	C#/Db
	D	E	B	A	D
	D#/Eb	F	C	A#/Bb	D#/Eb
	E	F#/Gb	C#/Db	B	E
	F	G	D	C	F
	F#/Gb	G#/Ab	D#/Eb	C#/Db	F#/Gb
	G	A	E	D	G
	G#/Ab	A#/Bb	F	D#/Eb	G#/Ab
	A	B	F#/Gb	E	A
	A#/Bb	C	G	F	A#/Bb
	B	C#/Db	G#/Ab	F#/Gb	B

As you get better at transposing, you will not need to look at the chart for every single note—once you get started, you can follow the contour of the melody as the notes go up and down, referring back to check that you are doing it correctly.

Also, remember how treble and bass clefs work and don't forget flats and sharps in the key signature or as accidentals:

