

Dual Chamber Flute Playing Tips

The dual chamber flute is a versatile and unusual instrument. Since each barrel is totally independent of the other, the flute may be played like a single barrel flute by simply positioning the lips on the right side of the mouthpiece so air enters only the right chamber. A slight shift of the lips to the left brings the left chamber into play and the sound flowing from the flute changes dramatically. The left barrel produces a drone tone which mixes with the notes being played on the right barrel creating a mystical sound that grabs the attention of anyone within hearing distance.

The two fetishes tied atop the flute body can be independently adjusted to create different effects. Moving the fetish toward or away from, the edge of the rectangular sound hole, will vary the amount of air flow required to produce an octave shift in the associated barrel. This adjustment when applied to the drone barrel, allows the player to determine the point at which the drone barrel will shift up an octave. For instance, the flutist may want the drone shift to occur only when the two highest notes of the right barrel are being played. Since more air flow is required to produce these higher notes, this increase also causes the octave shift in the drone barrel.

To make the flute produce a beat frequency, position one fetish at the edge of the sound hole and the other back from the edge by as much as 3/16 inch and blow gently into both barrels with all playing holes covered. If no beat effect is produced, reverse the positioning of the two fetishes and try again. Once the effect is produced, try slight adjustments of the fetishes to vary the rate of the beat frequency.