

# ALTERNATIVE FINGERINGS FOR TREBLE RECORDER

Set out in tabulated form by Hilary Potts

For more detail, see Chapter 5 of  
**Recorder Technique Intermediate to Advanced**  
2<sup>nd</sup> ed 1986 by Anthony Rowland-Jones

## Key

- o = empty hole
- = fully covered hole
- φ = half-hole or shaded hole
- \* = trill finger(s)

## NOTES

Fingerings suggested here will not be equally good on all instruments.

Trill fingerings are listed under the lower note only.

For some fingerings, brace little finger of left hand to prevent movement of the instrument.

Range: from the E at the bottom of the treble clef to the third C

## LOWER OCTAVE

### Low E

Thumb	•
1	•
2	•
3	•
4	•
5	•
6	••
7	••
End-hole	•

– officially does not exist but can be faked by holding end of instrument against the upper leg with little or no tonguing and VERY gently or it will sound F’

### Low F

Thumb	•
1	•
2	•
3	•
4	•
5	•
6	••
7	••
End-hole	o

No alternatives for this note.

To play pp, slide finger 7 over bottom half-hole

To play ff, shade bell as for low E & tongue lightly

### F# - Gb

Thumb	•
1	•
2	•
3	•
4	•
5	•
6	••
7	•o

No alternatives

Use “wrist-swivel” method for half-holes when appropriate.

F# can be made more powerful by bell shading

End-hole	o
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1

**LOWER OCTAVE (continued)**

**G** Sharp on some recorders

**Trill G – Ab** - Keep 6 well arched

Thumb	•
1	•
2	•
3	•
4	•
5	•
6	••
7	oo
End-hole	o

Thumb	•
1	
2	•
3	•
4	•
5	•
6	•o
7	••*
End-hole	o

**Ab /G#**

**Alternative to half-holing with 6 heavily shaded**

**Ab - Bb trill**

Thumb	•
1	•
2	•
3	•
4	•
5	•
6	•o
7	oo
End-hole	oo

Thumb	•
1	•
2	•
3	•
4	•
5	•
6	oo
7	••
End-hole	oo

Thumb	•
1	•
2	•
3	•
4	•
5	•*
6	•o
7	oo
End-hole	oo

**A**

**A - B trill**  
**Keep 4 low**

**A - Bb trill alternative**  
5 in arched position

Thumb	•
1	•
2	•
3	•
4	•
5	•
6	oo
7	oo

Thumb	•
1	•
2	•
3	•
4	φ*
5	•
6	oo
7	oo

Thumb	•
1	•
2	•
3	•
4	•
5	φ*
6	••
7	••

End-hole	oo
----------	----

End-hole	oo
----------	----

End-hole	oo
----------	----

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**LOWER OCTAVE (continued)**

**Bb/A#**

**Sharper (or softer) version**

**Bb - C trill**

Thumb	•
1	•
2	•
3	•
4	•
5	o
6	••
7	••
End-hole	oo

Thumb	•
1	•
2	•
3	•
4	•
5	o
6	••
7	•o
End-hole	oo

Thumb	•
1	•
2	•
3	•
4	•*
5	o
6	••
7	oo
End-hole	oo

**A#-B trill**

With arched finger on far side of hole

Thumb	•
1	•
2	•
3	•
4	φ*
5	•
6	oo
7	oo
End-hole	oo

**B** – if sharp, add half-hole 7.

**B-C# trill**

– keep 3<sup>rd</sup> finger very low

Thumb	•
1	•
2	•
3	•
4	o
5	•

Thumb	•
1	•
2	•
3	•*
4	o
5	•

6	••
7	oo
End-hole	oo

6	••
7	oo
End-hole	oo

3

**LOWER OCTAVE (continued)**

**C**

**Alternative for C-Db trill**

Thumb	•
1	•
2	•
3	•
4	o
5	o
6	oo
7	oo
End-hole	oo

Thumb	•
1	•
2	•
3	o
4	•
5	•
6	••
7	•*
End-hole	oo

**C# / Db (on some recorders add 6 or half-hole 6)**

Two poor-quality limited use alternatives  
For the turn after a D#-E trill & turn after Eb-F trill

Thumb	•
1	•
2	•
3	o
4	•
5	•
6	oo
7	oo
End-hole	oo

Thumb	•
1	•
2	o
3	•
4	•
5	•
6	••
7	•o
End-hole	oo

Thumb	•
1	o
2	•
3	•
4	•
5	•
6	•o
7	oo
End-hole	oo

**D**

**D-Eb trill**

or (on some recorders)

Thumb	•
1	•
2	•
3	o

Thumb	•
1	•
2	o
3	•

Thumb	•
1	•
2	o
3	•

4	o
5	o
6	oo
7	oo
End-hole	oo

4	•
5	•*
6	•o
7	oo
End-hole	oo

4	•
5	•*
6	••
7	oo
End-hole	oo

4

**LOWER OCTAVE (continued)**

**D alternative**

Thumb	•
1	o
2	•
3	•
4	•
5	•
6	oo
7	oo
End-hole	oo

for use with 0-23 version of E especially in phrase F'EDE

**Eb-D#: can be sharp**

Thumb	•
1	•
2	o
3	•
4	•
5	o
6	oo
7	oo
End-hole	oo

**Alternative (flatter)**

Thumb	•
1	•
2	o
3	•
4	o
5	•
6	••
7	oo
End-hole	oo

**For Eb-F slur but if sharp add 6.**

Thumb	•
1	o
2	•
3	•*
4	•
5	o
6	(••)
7	oo
End-hole	oo

**E**

Thumb	•
1	•
2	o
3	o

**Alternative for E-F trills**

Thumb	•
1	o
2	•
3	•*

**for E-F# trills**

Thumb	•
1	•*
2	o
3	o

4	o
5	o
6	oo
7	oo
End-hole	oo

4	o
5	o
6	oo
7	oo
End-hole	oo

4	o
5	o
6	oo
7	oo
End-hole	oo

5

## UPPER OCTAVE (F to C#)

**F (100 possible alternatives)**

e.g.(sharper, for e#)

or add 5 (flattish)

Thumb	•
1	o
2	•
3	o
4	o
5	o
6	oo
7	oo
End-hole	oo

Thumb	o
1	•
2	•
3	•
4	o
5	o
6	oo
7	oo
End-hole	oo

Thumb	•
1	o
2	o
3	•
4	•
5	(•)
6	oo
7	oo
End-hole	oo

### Alternatives with increasing thumb opening for octaves & high passage-work

Thumb	φ
1	•
2	o
3	o
4	•
5	•
6	oo
7	oo
End-hole	oo

Thumb	φ
1	•
2	o
3	o
4	•
5	o
6	oo
7	oo
End-hole	oo

Thumb	φ
1	•
2	o
3	o
4	o
5	o
6	oo
7	oo
End-hole	oo

**F – Gb trills**

Thumb	•
1	o
2	•*
3	o

**F – G trills**

especially if followed by Eb

Thumb	•*
1	o
2	o
3	•

4	o
5	o
6	oo
7	oo
End-hole	oo

4	•
5	(•)
6	oo
7	oo
End-hole	oo

6

**UPPER OCTAVE (continued)**

**F# /Gb**

**Very strong sound**

**With higher notes**

Thumb	o
1	•
2	•
3	o
4	o
5	o
6	oo
7	oo
End-hole	oo

Thumb	•
1	o
2	o
3	o
4	o
5	o
6	oo
7	oo
End-hole	oo

Thumb	φ
1	•
2	•
3	•
4	•
5	•
6	••
7	••
End-hole	oo

**F# - G# trill**

**or (trilling very low)**

Thumb	o
1	•
2	•
3	•*
4	•*
5	•
6	••
7	oo
End-hole	oo

Thumb	φ
1	•
2	•
3	•
4	•
5	•
6	••*
7	••
End-hole	oo

**G – can be played with one finger almost anywhere, and many combinations of two.**

**Slightly flat**

**Sharp and coarse**

**For Eb -G slurs**

Thumb	o
1	•

Thumb	o
1	o

Thumb	o
1	o

2	o
3	o
4	o
5	o
6	oo
7	oo
End-hole	oo

2	o
3	o
4	o
5	o
6	oo
7	oo
End-hole	oo

2	o
3	•
4	•
5	o
6	oo
7	oo
End-hole	oo

7

**UPPER OCTAVE – G continued**

**For soft notes**

**G-A trill & upward slurs**

**with half thumb**

Thumb	o
1	o
2	o
3	•
4	o
5	o
6	oo
7	oo
End-hole	oo

Thumb	o
1	•
2	•
3	•
4	•
5	•*
6	••
7	••
End-hole	oo

Thumb	ϕ
1	•
2	•
3	•
4	•*
5	•
6	••
7	•o
End-hole	oo

**G – Ab trill** (see Rowland Jones for further alternatives)

(Ab rather flat)

or

or

Thumb	o
1	•
2	•
3	•
4	•*
5	•
6	•
7	••
End-hole	oo

Thumb	o
1	•
2	•*
3	•
4	•*
5	•
6	•
7	••
End-hole	oo

Thumb	o
1	•
2	•
3	•
4	•
5	•
6	•
7	••*
End-hole	oo

Thumb	o
-------	---

Thumb	o
-------	---

Thumb	o
-------	---

1	o
2	•
3	•*
4	•*
5	•
7	oo
End-hole	oo

1	o
2	o
3	•
4	•*
5	•
7	oo
End-hole	oo

1	o
2	o
3	•
4	•
5	•*
7	oo
End-hole	oo

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**UPPER OCTAVE (continued)**

**Ab /G#**

**(flatter version)**

**(sharper)**

Thumb	o
1	o
2	•
3	•
4	•
5	•
6	••
7	oo
End-hole	oo

Thumb	o
1	•
2	•
3	•
4	•
5	•
6	••
7	oo
End-hole	oo

Thumb	o
1	o
2	o
3	•
4	•
5	•
6	••
7	oo
End-hole	oo

**Most accurate version on many instruments, and softer**

**Ab – Bb trill**

Thumb	φ
1	•
2	•
3	•
4	•
5	•
6	•o
7	oo
End-hole	oo

Thumb	φ
1	•
2	•
3	•
4	•
5	•*
6	•o
7	oo
End-hole	oo

**A**

**Two alternatives identical in intonation**

Thumb	$\phi$
1	•
2	•
3	•
4	•
5	•
6	oo
7	oo
End-hole	oo

Thumb	o
1	•
2	•
3	•
4	•
5	•
6	oo
7	oo
End-hole	oo

Thumb	o
1	o
2	•
3	•
4	•
5	•
6	oo
7	oo
End-hole	oo

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**UPPER OCTAVE - A continued**

**for slurring G-A-Bb**

**A - Bb trill**

Thumb	o
1	•
2	•
3	•
4	•
5	o
6	••
7	••
End-hole	oo

Thumb	o/ $\phi$
1	•
2	•
3	•
4	•
5	o
6	••
7	••*
End-hole	oo

**Bb /A#**

**Alternative before Ab**

**A# - B trill**

Thumb	$\phi$
1	•
2	•
3	•
4	•
5	o
6	••
7	oo
End-hole	oo

Thumb	$\phi$
1	•
2	•
3	•
4	•
5	o
6	•o
7	•o
End-hole	oo

Thumb	$\phi$
1	•
2	•
3	•
4	o
5	•
6	•o*
7	oo
End-hole	oo

**B - no useful alternatives**

**B - C# trill**

Thumb	$\phi$
1	•
2	•
3	•
4	o
5	•
6	o
7	o
	oo
End-hole	oo

Thumb	$\phi$
1	•
2	•
3	•*
4	o
5	•
6	o
7	o
	oo
End-hole	oo

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**UPPER OCTAVE (continued)**

**C – virtually no alternatives**

**C – Db trill**

Thumb	$\phi$
1	•
2	•
3	•
4	o
5	o
6	oo
7	oo
End-hole	oo

Thumb	$\phi$
1	•
2	•
3	o
4	•
5	o
6	••*
7	oo
End-hole	oo

**C# /Db**

**Alternative for slurs**

**A B C# D**

**For slurring down from D#**

Thumb	$\phi$
1	•
2	•
3	o
4	•
5	o
6	oo
7	oo
End-hole	oo

Thumb	$\phi$
1	•
2	•
3	o
4	o
5	•
6	oo
7	oo
End-hole	oo

Thumb	$\phi$
1	•
2	•
3	•
4	•
5	•
6	••
7	••
End-hole	oo

**Db – Eb trill**

Thumb	$\phi$
1	•
2	•
3	•*
4	•
5	•
6	••
7	••*
End-hole	oo

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### HIGH NOTES BEYOND C#

#### D

Thumb	$\phi$
1	•
2	•
3	o
4	o
5	o
6	oo
7	oo
End-hole	oo

#### D – Eb trill

Thumb	$\phi$
1	•
2	•
3	•*
4	•
5	•
6	••
7	•o*
End-hole	oo

#### D – E trill

Thumb	$\phi$
1	•
2	•
3	$\phi$
4	o
5	o
6	••*
7	••*
End-hole	oo

#### Eb /D#

Thumb	$\phi$
1	•
2	•
3	o
4	•
5	•
6	••
7	oo
End-hole	oo

#### Alternative

Thumb	$\phi$
1	•
2	•
3	o
4	o
5	•
6	••
7	•(•)
End-hole	oo

**E – if sharp add half-hole 7.**

**Alternative (lightly tongued)**

Thumb	$\phi$
1	•
2	•
3	o
4	•
5	•
6	oo
7	oo
End-hole	oo

Thumb	$\phi$
1	•
2	o
3	o
4	•
5	•
6	••
7	••
End-hole	oo

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**TOP F**

Thumb	$\phi$
1	•
2	o
3	o
4	•
5	•
6	oo
7	oo
End-hole	oo

**- if flat, widen thumb aperture  
If sharp, add half-hole 6. SMILE!**

**TOP F# /Db – a difficult note**

**Slurred up from F**

**Leaking 2 & 5 or 6**

Thumb	$\phi$
1	o
2	o
3	o
4	•
5	•
6	oo
7	oo
End-hole	oo

Thumb	$\phi$
1	•
2	$\phi$
3	•
4	•
5	•
6	••
7	••
End-hole	oo

**With end-hole**

Thumb	$\phi$
1	•
2	o
3	o
4	•
5	•
6	oo
7	oo
End-hole	••

**or**

Thumb	$\phi$
1	•
2	o
3	•
4	•
5	o
6	••
7	••
End-hole	••

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**TOP G**

Thumb	$\phi$
1	•
2	o
3	•
4	•
5	o
6	••
7	oo
End-hole	oo

**Alternative (sharper)**

Thumb	$\phi$
1	o
2	•
3	•
4	•
5	o
6	••
7	••
End-hole	oo

**with covered bell**

Thumb	$\phi$
1	•
2	o
3	•
4	o
5	o
6	oo
7	oo
End-hole	••

**G# / Ab – requires strong tonguing**

Thumb	$\phi$
1	•
2	o
3	•
4	o
5	o
6	oo
7	(••)
End-hole	oo

Thumb	$\phi$
1	o
2	•
3	•
4	o
5	•
6	(••)
7	oo
End-hole	oo

**A**

Thumb	$\phi$
1	o
2	•
3	o
4	o
5	o
6	oo
7	oo
End-hole	oo

**With covered bell**

Thumb	$\phi$
1	o
2	•
3	•
4	o
5	•
6	••
7	oo
End-hole	••

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**TOP A# /Bb**

Thumb	$\phi$
1	•
2	•
3	o
4	•
5	•
6	oo
7	oo
End-hole	••

**B – needs strong tonguing to avoid E**

Thumb	$\phi$
1	•
2	•
3	o
4	•
5	•
6	oo
7	oo
End-hole	oo

# C

Thumb	$\phi$
1	•
2	o
3	o
4	•
5	o
6	oo
7	oo
End-hole	oo

**For higher notes, see Rowland-Jones.**