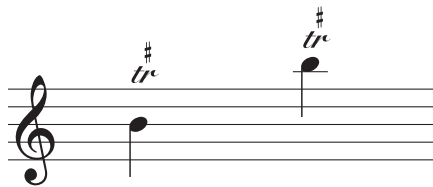




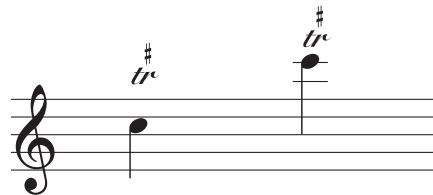
At-a-Glance Guide to the C# Trill

Many people have asked about the C# trill and what it does. The very name of the key causes confusion. Actually, this mechanism is one of the most useful on the flute. It moves several left hand movements to the right hand and simplifies a number of trills. It also provides an additional vent, which clarifies several notes and octaves. The following examples will illustrate some of its many functions.

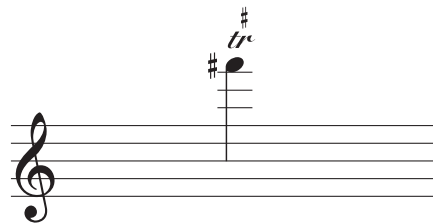
Trills



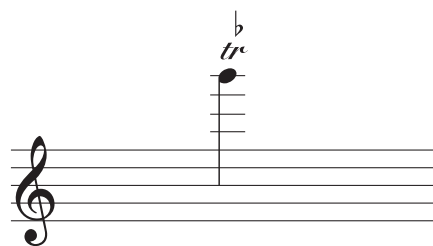
Finger B and trill the C# trill key.
The intonation is better and a two-finger trill is eliminated.



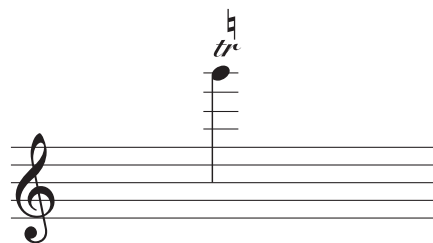
Finger C and trill the C# trill key.
This is a faster trill and allows for a more comfortable feel.



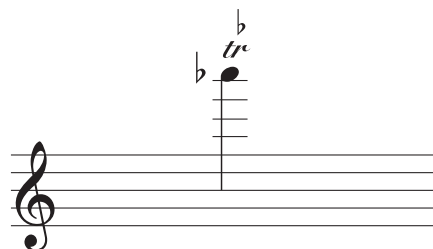
Finger high F# and trill the C# trill key.
Helpful in the *Grand Canyon Suite*!



Finger high G and trill the C# trill key.
Better in tune, and far more comfortable.



Finger high G and trill the C# trill and the upper trill key.
This trill alone is worth the price of the key.



Finger high A and trill both trill keys and the C# trill key.
This trill shows up in many Mahler Symphonies.

Tremolos and Shakes

First octave B, B^b, A, A^b, and G can be tremoloed with C[#] by just using the C[#] trill key. The same note can be tremoloed with D natural by using the C[#] trill and first trill key, in combination. These notes may require some pitch adjustment, but there is no easy way to do these effects otherwise.



Specialty Notes

Pianissimo high A^b: How many of us have tried to play this note softly and keep pitch and sonority? Play middle A^b with all the left-hand keys depressed, and the C[#] trill and the high A^b will appear softly, and in tune.

Debussy C[#]: The middle C[#] which opens *Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune* is often raw and hard to color. Use the C[#] trill while fingering B^b, and you will get a C[#] which is full and able to be colored without losing pitch, since the resistance of the note is increased.

A word about the mechanism is probably in order. Since this key has its own rod, it will not interfere or complicate the existing mechanism. The placement of the key lever is not clumsy, since it is above and to the left of the B^b shake. A few moments of playing will convince the player of the ease of operation of both keys.

Careful comparison of identical flutes, with and without C[#] trill keys, have convinced us that the additional hole does not affect the tone.

There are many other effects which the C[#] trill could produce, and the ingenuity of flutists and composers will create and fulfill new demands. The modern flutist would do well to consider the C[#] trill an integral part of the instrument.