

4 Rules to Choosing the Best Fingering on Clarinet

Rule #1 Don't slide.

No sliding from one pinky key to another or from covering a hole to the "banana/sliver" key.

Rule #2 Don't Flip.

No flipping fingers - such as from B to Bb - middle finger to 4th finger.

Rule #3 The TopTop Key is King.

The TopTop key is the right pinky key that is the top key on the top layer. (The one that has no 'matching' key on the left.) It must always be fingered on the right, so the notes next to it must be on the left.

Rule #4 Law of Minimal Motion

The less hands and fingers you move the better. The less motion you have, the more efficiency and speed you will have.

As you get into more advanced music you will find exceptions. If you have a passage that these rules don't seem to apply to, ask your band director.

For more information, specific examples and pictures about choosing the best clarinet fingering and the Law of Minimal Motion, go to www.BandDirectorsTalkShop.com and search "clarinet."