

My Favorite Altissimo Fingerings:

Please note that these are the fingerings I personally like, and may not work for all horns or players. Many of them are considered "standard" although I developed them on my own, before I knew they were. All fingerings are for alto, unless specified. - **Jason DuMars**

High F#:

Finger the standard auxiliary front F key (first finger of left hand on the aux F and 2nd finger on the C key) -- add side Bb

High G: (No multiphonic)

Finger the auxiliary front F key (first finger of left hand) without holding down the C key, add side Bb and right hand F finger.

High G: (with multiphonic)

B and G in the left hand, F and D in the right

High G#: (overblowing will get a weak multiphonic)

Same as G (non-multi) above, only lift right hand F key

High A: (No multiphonic)

Same as G# (non-multi), add C trill side key

High A: (multiphonic)

A and G of left hand with E and D in the right

High Bb: (non-multi)

Finger middle D, lift left hand B finger, add D palm key

High B: (No multiphonic)

A and G in left hand, F and D in right, add D and Eb palm keys

High B: (Multiphonic)

Finger middle D and overblow the harmonics of the note

High C: Option 1

B and G in the left hand with F and D in the right

High C: Option 2

Finger standard high C (C + octave key) and add D and Eb palm keys

Notes: The non-multi versions of these fingerings were ones I found that worked very nicely for scale patterns. They are not necessarily as handy when doing intervallic leaps. The altissimo C option 2 is not as reliable as option 1, but is nice because of the Octave-Minor 3rd possibility. High B (multi) works great on tenor, and so does the option 2 C. Good luck! Stay tuned for my STB fingerings...

Close Multiphonic Harmonies For Alto

Saxophone

- 1 - Low Bb with G open (also altissimo Bb)
- 2 - Low B with A open (or side Bb) (also altissimo B, and close multiphonic B)
- 3 - Low C with side C open (also altissimo C)
- 4 - Low C# with B open (also altissimo C#)
- 5 - Low D with palm D open
- 6 - Low Eb with palm D open *Major chord (also altissimo Eb) Low Eb with palm D open yields a different chord Low Eb with palm Eb yields a faint chord
- 7 - Low E with palm Eb open *Major Chord (also altissimo C) note: must keep the back of throat very open and lip forward on reed Low E with palm F open yields a different chord
- 8 - Low F with palm F open *implied dominant 7 which leads to fingering 7

"Whisper Multiphonics" - Based on the interval of a sixth

All fingering require the octave key.

- 1 - Front F key yields an F# - D# major sixth which must be played quietly
- 2 - Palm F key yields an F# - E minor seventh
- 3 - Open C# produces a lower note of E note: fingering three can be raised chromatically to produce the same interval. ie: Palm D = F, D although intonation may vary.

Altissimo Multiphonics (ala David Sanborn)

- 1 - Altissimo F#: Front F (with C) and side Bb
- 2 - Altissimo G: B, G and F, D or Front F (no C), low F, and side Bb
- 3 - Altissimo A: G and A
- 4 - Altissimo Bb: Finger low E then add palm D
- 5 - Altissimo C: Finger low E then add palm Eb

These are all fingerings I have found by trial and error. Most multiphonics require a great deal of patience to learn.

Even more multiphonics....

Chordals:

1. E pedal tone with F/Gb added:
Finger low Bb and lift right hand D

2. E pedal tone with dissonant extensions:

Same fingering as 1 except with low B

3. Rich Eb-based chord with octave added:

Same as 1 but lift Eb instead

4. Interesting Eb quarter tone dissonance with octave:

Finger low C# and lift Eb

5. E octaves with C added

Finger low C and lift D

6. Dissonant chromaticism

Finger low Bb, lift D and E, alternate adding fork F#

for color, lift G to complete chromatic run

7. Low F with clear 9th added

Finger low C, lift right middle finger, lower it SLOWLY until G sounds

8. Rich G, F# dissonance

Low C with right hand F lifted, add fork F# for color

"Double" Multiphonics

These are multiphonics that combine two separate chords.

Sound the first multiphonic, then add the next vent opening.

9. make it a double! Loud, dissonant, neighbor-annoying chord

Finger low Bb, lift D. Add side Bb