## Play It Today!

## Dood \& Toot



## Introducing NUVO WindStars!

The "Play It Today" series was created to help you teach yourself how to play your NUVO instrument and learn the basics of reading music. There are backing tracks available for each song in this book in the same Dropbox folder where you downloaded this PDF from. The "Play lt Today" series also contains videos for each instrument which you can find in the Dropbox folder or on our YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/@Nuvolnstrumental
Don't forget that NUVO instruments are pitched in the key of C (concert pitch). This makes it easy to add other instruments like piano, guitar and ukulele to create a mixed ensemble.

If you are interested in teaching a NUVO instrument to a young beginner, we recommend that you check the WindStars pre-band curriculum. Designed to be used with beginners from ages 4-10, you can use this curriculum in a private lesson setting or with a full class. There is a teacher and student book available for each level. The WindStars levels are:

WindStars 1: Dood and Toot instruments WindStars 2: jFlute, jSax, Clarinéo and jHorn instruments

To learn more about the award-winning WindStars curriculum, check out: https://nuvo-windstars.com/

We want to hear from you! If you have any questions or want to share your musical journey with us, please contact us or find us in the following spaces.

Email contact page: https://www.nuvoinstrumental.com/contact/



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## Dood and Toot - Play It Today Book

The Dood and Toot are fantastic fun to play and a great way to introduce younger players to the joy of playing woodwind instruments. This Play It Today book will guide you through the basics of playing the instruments and reading music notation. It doesn't matter if you have never read music, or even picked up an instrument before. This book is written to be used either on your own, or as part of a larger group or class. All the music in this book can played on both the Dood and Toot, and can even be played on other $C$ instruments such as recorders and Orff instruments.

## Teacher Tips

You don't have to be a woodwind specialist to have fun teaching NUVO instruments. Check out our new WindStars curriculum, where you can find games and activities to engage classes of all sizes regardless of your own musical ability.

## NUVO Superstars \& Certificate

Look out for the 9 stars as you progress through the book. You can color them in when you reach them to show that you have learnt everything up to that point. You can also color the stars below to track your progress.


When you have finished the book, and can play all the tunes perfectly, you can print out the "Play It Today" certificate, fill in your name and put it on your wall!

## Backing Tracks and Videos

Throughout the book you will find backing track and video icons as shown.

## VIDEO 01 - Introducing the Clarinéo

01
TRACK 01 - E Tune by Graham Lyons

If you are viewing the PDF while online, you can click the icons to access the video. You can also download all the tracks and videos and manage them from your computer when not online.

## Introducing the Dood

## 01 <br> 圙

## VIDEO 01 - Introducing the Dood

Your Dood is ready to play straight from the case. Below are all the parts of the Dood with their names labelled.

The mouthpiece cap keeps the reed safe between practice sessions. Make sure you remove the mouthpiece cap BEFORE trying to make your first sound.


## The Reeds and Mouthpiece

The reed on your Dood is very important, this is the part that vibrates and makes the sound. Your Dood comes with 2 synthetic reeds numbered 1 and $1 \frac{1}{2}$. The reed marked 1 is the softest and should be the easiest reed to create an initial sound. The $1 \frac{1}{2}$ reed is a little harder and offers more resistance when it is played. We recommend starting with the number 1 reed, and trying the $1 \frac{1}{2}$ as you progress through the book. If you look after them, your reeds should last a long time. Biting or chewing your reeds will damage them, and they will not work properly. Check the tip of your reed from time to time to make sure it is flat, and always replace the mouthpiece cap carefully when you have finished playing.

## Changing the Reeds:

If using NUVO synthetic reeds, you will notice there is a rib on the back of the reed that fits into the groove on the mouthpiece. If using a cane reed, make sure it is centered and positioned level with the mouthpiece tip.
To remove a reed, press the lever and carefully slide the reed away from the mouthpiece.
To insert a reed, press the lever and slide the reed in as far as it will go. You will notice that the tip of the reed should now be level with the tip of the mouthpiece.


The mouthpiece can be removed from the Dood body. Notice the rubber O-rings which seal the mouthpiece with the body. Make sure they are in their slots before attaching the mouthpiece to the body.

## Introducing the Toot

## 03 <br> 院

## VIDEO 03 - Introducing the Toot

Your Toot is ready to play straight from the case, look at the picture below which has the different parts labelled.


Your Toot comes fitted with the Firstnote lip plate; it is similar to a recorder mouthpiece and will enable you to get a sound straight away, so you only have to think about playing music!


Firstnote Lip Plate

In your Toot case you will also find another lip plate which is more like a standard flute lip plate. You might want to try this once you feel confident holding and playing your Toot. It will help you get a louder, fuller sound.

## Changing the Lip Plates

## 04

 VIDEO 04 - Changing the lip platesIf you want to take your Firstnote lip plate off and replace it with the standard lip plate, it's easy to do; they simply clip into position. Use the tool provided, sliding it under the back edge of the lip plate as shown below. Then take the standard lip plate and make sure the rubber O -ring is secure. Locate the lip plate on one side, and then squeeze firmly until it clicks into position.


## Holding the Dood and Toot

There is so much to focus on when students are trying to create their first sound. We suggest holding the instruments as shown below, while exploring embouchure and basic rhythm excercises.

Hand Position for First Sounds


The Dood and the Toot may look quite different, but the hand placement is very similar. Both hand positions are a bit like a recorder with your left hand at the top and your right hand at the bottom. The Dood is played straight in front of you and the Toot is played out to the right side, just like a flute. Your fingers are placed in a similar way on each instrument with the first 3 holes or keys played with your left hand and the second 4 holes or keys played with your right hand.

## Good Posture

It is important to stand upright and bring your instrument up to your mouth. This will help you to produce good notes. Remember not to bend forward or dip your head towards your instrument.


Needs Improvement


Correct

## Playing Your Dood

## 05

賏

## VIDEO 05 - Playing your Dood

Make sure your mouthpiece is positioned so the reed is at the bottom. Start by resting your top teeth on the top or "beak" of the mouthpiece about 1 cm from the tip (Image 1), and close your mouth around the mouthpiece (Image 2). Your bottom lip will cover your lower teeth and make a cushion for the reed to rest on. Now take a breath and without puffing your cheeks out, try to blow a note on the Dood. You need not think about your fingers yet, just think about blowing! You can experiment with a little less and a little more mouthpiece in your mouth and listen to how it changes the sound.


Image 1 - Teeth on top


Image 2 - Close mouth

## Not Making a Sound?

If you find you can't make a sound, you might be biting down on the reed too hard, try to loosen your mouth a little around the mouthpiece. If you are making a lot of squeaking noises, you might have too much of the mouthpiece in your mouth, try sliding the mouthpiece out a little and have another go. Don't worry if you can't always do it the first time!

## Playing Your Toot with the Firstnote Lip Plate

Playing the Toot with the Firstnote lip plate is simple; just raise the Toot up to your mouth, with the instrument pointing out to your right-hand side, close your lips around the mouthpiece as shown and gently blow. Keep your cheeks in and your head up.
Try experimenting with less air and more air and listen to how the sound changes.


## Playing Your Toot with the Standard Lip Plate

## 06

VIDEO 06 - Playing your Toot with the standard lip plate
If you find you can easily make a sound with the Firstnote lip plate, you might want to try the standard lip plate, which is the same as what you would find on a traditional flute.
If you can, do this in front of a mirror so you can see what you are doing. The lip plate hole of the Toot should be pointed straight upwards, and your head should be kept up. Bring the Toot to your mouth, rather than trying to move your head towards the Toot. Feel for the near edge of the hole with your bottom lip, the lip should cover about a quarter of the hole. Now bring your lips together leaving a small oval opening in the middle of your lips. Try to blow a steady stream of air towards the opposite edge of the mouth hole, and
 listen to what happens.

## Not Making a Sound?

If you are unable to make a sound, don't give up! It can take several attempts to find the correct position. Try turning the Toot towards you, and then away from you, to change the angle at which the air hits the blowing edge. You can also try varying the amount of air, and how much of the lip plate hole you cover up.

## Introducing the Staff or Stave

Musical notation is written out using 5 lines called the staff, or stave. The notes are placed either in the spaces between the lines, or on the lines depending on which notes they are.


The first 3 notes we will learn on the Dood and Toot are called B, A and G, this is what they look like on the staff. Notice how the $B$ and $G$ are on the line, while the $A$ is in the space between the lines.

B


G


We will learn to read more notes at the same time as we learn to play them on our instruments.

## Let's Play Some Notes: B, A and G

The first notes we are going to learn on Dood and Toot are B, A and G. Remember how to hold your instrument - left hand 3 fingers at the top, right hand 4 fingers below and don't forget those thumbs at the back.


This is how to play the notes on your instruments;


Now have a go at playing the 3 notes, and try moving between them. Don't forget that your thumb should be covering the back hole for all 3 notes. Dooders make sure you have your hands the right way around, left at the top, right at the bottom.

* Teachers - If you want to teach NUVO in a pre-band classroom setting, check out our WindStars curriculum at https://nuvo-windstars.com/ *


## Note Lengths

Music notes don't just tell us what notes to play, but also how long to hold the notes for.
Whole note,
count 4 beats



## Let's Play Some Tunes

The first tune we are going to play only uses one note - B. First try to clap out the rhythm of the tune, then have a listen to the demonstration track. Try clapping along to the tune while looking at the music.

## note B <br> 



Now try and play the tune on your instrument, follow the music as you play.

Now try the same with this tune which uses just the note $A$, remember to try clapping the rhythm of the tune first.


## NOTE G 气.



Finally try this on the note $G$


If we want the music to sound more interesting we need to use more than one note in a tune. Try playing these 4 tunes that use $B, A$ and $G$. Notice the repeat sign at the end of each piece - this means you repeat the tune again from the start.

Button


## Au Clair de la Lune



## Suo-Gan



## Up and Down


(nuvo Dood \& Toot

More B, A, G Tunes


Baggy Pants 2
Graham Lyons


Baggy Pants 3
Graham Lyons


When you play Time Traveller first listen to the backing track, then try to play with the music. In the classroom you could split into Group A and Group B, taking a line each.

11
Time Traveller
Group A


Group B


Group A
9


13


## Playing Duets

Music is usually played by more than one instrument at a time. A duet is a piece written for two players. Sometimes the two players have similar sounding lines, other times they have very different lines, but they always sound great when played together.

Part 1 and Part 2 can be played by Doods or Toots, or a combination of both.

Rock Duo


## Introducing Eighth Notes

When we need notes that are shorter than quarter notes, we can use eighth notes. Each eight note is worth half a quarter note.


See if you can spot the eighth notes in Donkeys, clap the rhythm, listen to the track, then try to play it.


## Starting Notes with Your Tongue

On the Dood and the Toot we should start some of the notes using our tongue. This is called articulation.

Dooders, touch the tip of the reed with your tongue to stop the sound. When you take it away the sound will carry on. Now play the note B, try to touch the reed, as if you are saying "Tu, tu, tu,". Try to make all the notes the same length. This is called tonguing!
Tooters, play a long B, and as you are blowing move your tongue up to the roof of your mouth. The note will stop. Now try doing the same but this time imagine you are saying "Tu, tu, tu". Try to keep your lips still all the time. You are now tonguing the notes!
Try playing Hot Cross Buns, and think about tonguing all the notes.
Hot Cross Buns
Trad.


## Eighth Note Workout!



16
Disco Duet
Paul Barker

(nuvo Dood \& Toot

Let's Learn 2 More Notes: C and F

$$
\text { note } C \underset{\rho}{\mathrm{~b} \cdot}
$$

note F 毫.


17
C Freeze!
Bruce Hunnisett


## 18

Merrily
Trad.


## Slurs



If there are notes in a tune which should not be tongued, we connect the notes with a slur; this means those notes should be played in one breath, moving your fingers smoothly to change the notes.
Remember to keep your air moving from one note to the next, so no gaps can be heard between the notes.

Try playing Merrily again, this time with some of the notes slurred. Try to play those passages in one breath, with no gaps.

Merrily


Now try playing Hot Cross Buns again, this time using different notes. We call this playing in a different key.



## The Flat Sign

A flat sign can be placed in front of any note, it lowers the note by a half-step.
The next note we are learning is a $B b$. It sounds slightly lower than a normal $B$. Try playing this note, it should sound half way between $A$ and $B$. Now play $B, A$ and $B b$ and listen to the difference between the notes.
Dooders, think about your right thumb. Remember the thumb rest moves, so find a position that is comfortable for you.

NOTE C 气.


## Introducing the Dotted Half Note



A dot after a note adds half the value of the original note, so the dotted half note will be worth 3 beats.

Look out for the dotted half notes in this tune.

When The Saints


## Let's Learn D: the Highest Note on the Dood and the Toot

## NOTE



## Key Signatures

If you look at the start of Twinkle Twinkle, you will notice a flat sign on the B line at the start of every line. This is called the key signature, and it means all the $B$ notes in the tune should be played as $B b$.

${ }^{24}$

## Twinkle Twinkle

Trad.


## Let's Learn Three More Notes: E, Low D and Low C

## NOTE E




Now try playing these notes. The low notes can be hard at first. If you are struggling to get the correct sound, it might be because your fingers are not covering the holes correctly. Playing in front of a mirror can help you see what your fingers are doing.

Let's revisit some tunes from earlier in the book, but this time we are going to be using these new notes.

Au Clair de la Lune



## Up and Down



Practice all the notes by playing the scale below. It goes from a low $C$ all the way up to a high $C$. In music we call this a major scale. This type of scale is the foundation for all kinds of music.

## The C Major Scale



Try playing the scale both slurred and tongued, it's a great way to warm up and get your fingers moving.

Now that you have learnt to play more notes, it's possible to play more interesting tunes. Take your time with each tune, and try to master each one before moving on. Remember it's a good idea to start slowly and gradually practice the tunes a little faster each time.

## 29

## London Bridge Is Falling Down



Remember the repeat sign introduced on page $15 \ln$ this old favorite you need to repeat the first line once then continue with lines 2 and 3 .

## 50 <br> Old Macdonald Boogie Trad.



9


## Introducing Time Signatures

All of the music we have played so far has been in $4 / 4$, meaning it has 4 quarter note beats in each measure. This is called the time signature.
Country Waltz and Morning have a time signature of 3/4, meaning they only have 3 quarter note beats in each measure. So take care, and count carefully.


Morning
Grieg


## Introducing the Dotted Quarter Note

The dotted quarter note is worth $1 \frac{1}{2}$ beats. It is often paired with an eighth note, to make 2 complete beats as in Michael Row the Boat Ashore and Ode to Joy.

Michael Row The Boat Ashore


Don't forget to check the key signature before playing the next tune.


## This Old Man



5

knick knack pad-dy whack, give a dog a bone, this old man came roll-ing home!

## (nuvo) Bod \& Toot

This is a great duet for Pods and Toots. Both parts can be played by either instrument.

## 56

## Jingle Bells

Trad. Arr. Paul Barker



Good King Wenceslas
Trad.
 5



Notice the $2 / 4$ time signature of the next tune. This tells us there are 2 beats in each bar.

## Yankee Doodle Dandy



5


In the tune Donkeys, you can see dots below some of the notes. These tell us that these notes should be played "Staccato".


Staccato notes should be played short and detached, so each note is clearly separate from the note that follows it.

Now try playing Donkeys again, this time we are going to play the quarter notes staccato. Start and stop the notes clearly with your tongue so each note sounds shorter and is detached from the following note.

Donkeys


## (nuvo Dood \& Toot

## The Chase


We Three Kings

far. Field and foun-tain,moor and moun-tain foll-ow-ing yon-der star.
16


bright. West-ward lead-ing still pro-ceed-ing guide us to thy per-fect light.

(nuvo Dood \& Toot


## First and Second Endings

In Smooth Trax and Reggae Trax you can see sections marked 1 and 2 towards the end. These are called first and second endings. The first time you play the measures marked 1 , and then when you repeat the piece you skip the first ending and play the ending marked 2 .

## Ties

A tie is a curved line connecting two notes of the same pitch. The two notes are added or "tied" together and played as a single note.



13

(nuvo Dood \& Toot

See if you can spot the ties in Reggae Trax

## Reggae Trax



16


## RAP Trax



Paul Barker

## Mexican Wave



## Congratulations!

You have completed all the music in this "Play It Today" book. You now know all the main notes that the Dood and Toot can play. It is possible to play even more notes and the fingering chart at the back of this book shows you how to do that.

If you want to learn even more great tunes, you can check out the WindStars website. When you set up a free online account, you can search for new music by instrument and specific notes.

## www.nuvo-windstars.com

Visit our website for more details about this, and other NUVO products.




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## Play It Today!

BY

## Bruce Hunnisett, Paul Barker, Graham Lyons, Dr. Cassandra Eisenreich

The "Play It Today" series has been prepared and edited by 4 widely experienced music educators to provide a basis for learning the fundamentals of any NUVO instrument. This book introduces basic technique and enough notes to play simple fun tunes solo or in a group. This is the perfect method for developing the necessary skills to further explore the wealth of music available to download from the WindStars website.


## nUVO

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