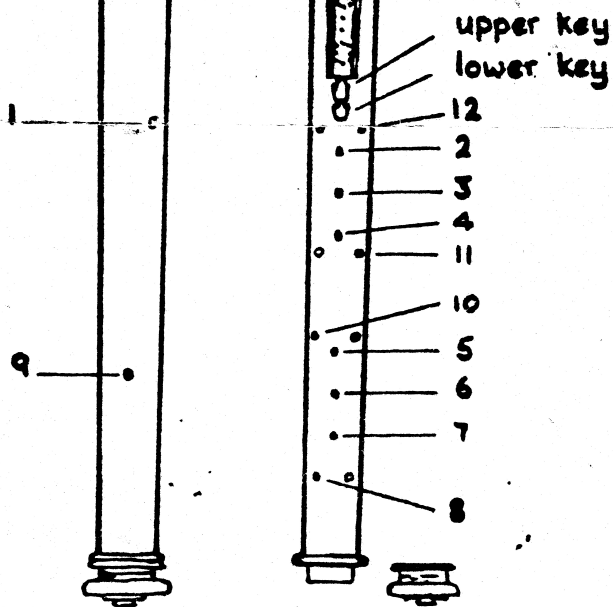
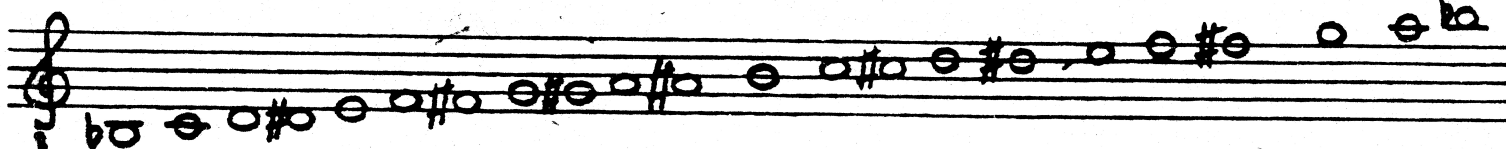
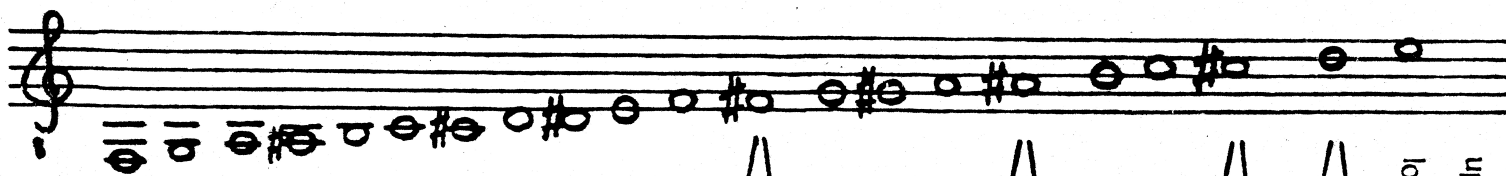




treble, bass



tenor



upper key
lower key

[illegible]

Tenor and treble sizes
have only one key

THE KORTHOLT

With the exception of the crumhorns, the extensive family of the capped reed instruments are described by Michael Praetorius, (Syntagma Musicum II De Organographia 1619), in a rather confusing manner. Also, there are no extant examples of these instruments.

We have, however, been able to reconstruct Praetorius' "Kortholt oder Kurzpfeiff" from plate XII No.7. This drawing is well detailed and shows the two covered keys for the highest notes and all the holes labelled with their notes (except for the lowest Bb). It agrees well with the entry in the "Tabella Universalis" XII for "Kort Instrument", with a range of two octaves without overblowing. The tone is as one would expect, similar to that of the "Cornamusen".

We have conjectured that, like the Cornamusen, there must have been at least bass, tenor and treble (alt) sizes. Indeed, close inspection of instrument No.6 in Plate XII shows an arrangement of finger-holes and general style which one would expect of a treble kortholt. This instrument would have been in g with a lowest note c.

Kortholts available from our workshops are as follows:

Quart bass in C		Lowest note FF		Highest note f		with 2 keys	
Bass	in F	"	" BBb	"	" b _b	"	"
Tenor	in c	"	" F	"	" e'	with 1 key	"
Treble	in f	"	" Bb	"	" a'	"	"
Treble	in g	"	" c	"	" a'	with no key	"

REEDS

A cane reed needs to be moistened before playing. Carefully remove the cap remembering that the reed is to the front and is very fragile. Lick the reed and replace the cap. The tone of the instrument with a cane reed is quite strong.

A plastic reed needs no prior wetting, and with it the instrument has a quieter tone. Be prepared to find a few modifications to the fingerings of high notes when changing reeds. Be sure not to disturb the adjustment of the blades when removing or replacing a reed.