

FINISHED **CLASSIC** Hand-Crank **MUSIC BOX**



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PARTS LIST

Finished Music Box

Punching Tool

1 Pre-Punched Music Strip (heavy paper)

5 Un-Punched Music Strips (heavy paper)

3 Sample Song Arrangements (plain paper)

TESTING THE BOX

____1) Test the operation of the movement using the pre-punched strip enclosed. With the crank handle facing you, insert the paper strip into the slot on your left. The song starts where the title is printed. Feed the strip all the way into the slot as you turn the crank clockwise.

DO NOT TRY TO PULL THE PAPER STRIP OUT. Just keep turning the crank to feed it all the way through. The crank only works one direction (clockwise) – it does not work in reverse.

____2) Long paper music strips can be loosely coiled for storage, but we prefer to cut the strips into about 9” sections and tape them back together again, placing tape alternately on the top and back of the joints so the strip will fold like an accordion into a compact stack about 9” long. This makes it easy to store the songs in a smaller space.



CREATING THE PAPER STRIPS

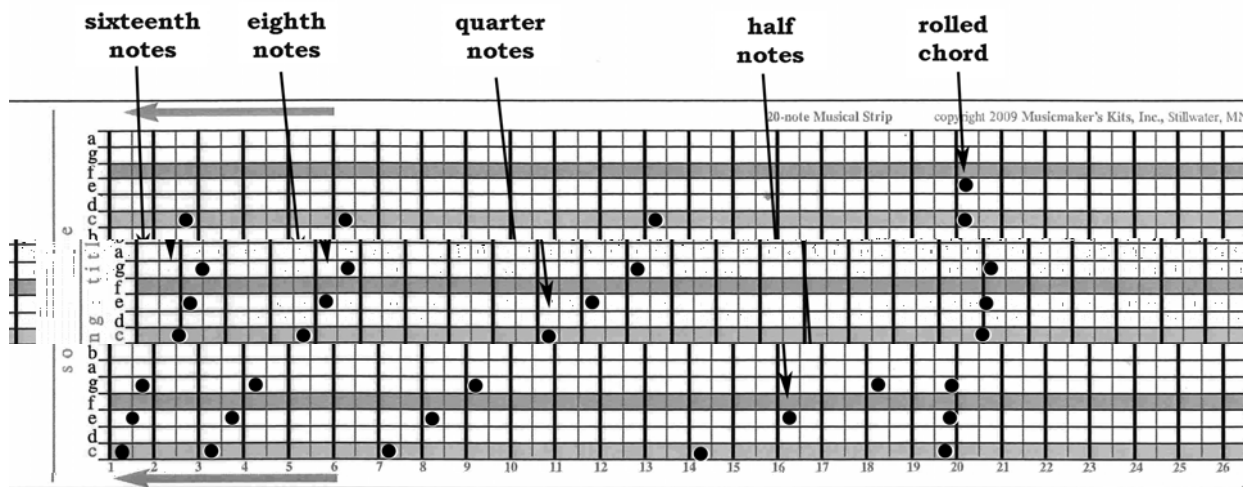
____3) Punching pre-printed notes on the strips is fun and easy enough for a 5-year-old. Just use the punching tool provided with the movement.

____4) Planning out new songs on blank paper strips, however, will be difficult for a non-musician, or a fun challenge for a seasoned musician. We think it would be a wonderful exercise for music students because it requires you to deal with both notation and rhythm, and it allows you to be creative with harmonies, grace notes, and other variations.

There is a nifty software program available (www.ktabs.theirhouse.org) for doing this arranging on your computer if you like. With that software, you can play the song on the computer before printing it out, so you know how it sounds before printing and punching.

Or you can work out your arrangements on paper strips with colored lines identifying the notes. Here are some hints for that:

- A) First, and most importantly, you CAN make corrections to the strips, even after they are punched.
- You can fill a punched hole with one of your punches by simply taping it back into place, putting tape on both sides (Scotch invisible tape works well – yes, we live near 3M).
 - You can cut the paper strip apart and splice in another section, using tape on both sides of the seams (don't overlap the paper). We once forgot a pause in the middle of one piece, so we simply spliced in a short blank section where the pause needed to be.
 - You can add more length to the strip in the same way, creating a very long song if you like.
- B) Always mark your paper strip in pencil first so you can erase mistakes before punching the holes.
- C) You will usually consider the space to the right of every dark vertical line to be a quarter note. That makes the other spaces eighth notes and the lines themselves sixteenth notes. A half note will span two dark lines (or the equivalent distance).



D) It is best to plan your punching carefully. If you are copying from a songbook or piece of sheet music, number all the measures on the music first, and then place numbers on your paper strip to mark the measures. Otherwise you will likely lose track of the beat.

- For 2/4 time, number the measures on every other dark line of the paper strip
- For 3/4 or 6/8 time, number the measures on every third dark line.
- For 4/4 time, number the measures on every fourth dark line.

E) All “C” notes are colored red, and “F” notes are colored blue on the paper strips. We use these colors because they match the colored strings on a harp. It is quite easy to find your way up and down the scale using these colors as markers.*

F) The bottom red horizontal line is the C in the bass clef, one octave below Middle C. The next red line up from the bottom is Middle C, and the next one is the C in the treble clef, one octave above Middle C.

***NOTE:** This musical movement only plays the C major scale. It has no sharps or flats. If you need to copy a song from sheet music in a different key, you’ll need to transpose the notes to the key of C. Though we cannot teach that skill in these kit instructions, you can either consult a seasoned musician for assistance, or go on-line and learn how to do it by reading tutorials (search Google for the words “transpose keys”).

Sometimes you'll encounter a song in the key of C that has what is called an “accidental note”, which is a sharp or flat that does not belong to that key, you can often just punch a harmony note in place of the accidental and people will not notice that you have altered the melody. Again, a seasoned musician can help you understand this tactic and make suggestions for a suitable alternate note.

Please realize that some music will be impossible to play on this movement. Complex jazz and Classical pieces simply have too many accidental notes to allow you to capture the essence of the music without having sharps and flats. There is, however, an extensive variety of music that will work very well for your music box.

G) Begin with the basic melody. We like to mark and punch the melody line first and try it in the movement before proceeding with harmonies and embellishments. Be sure to center each punch in a horizontal space. Otherwise the note will not play.

H) CAUTION: Each note can only be repeated as often as the distance between two dark lines on the paper strip. This is because the cog wheel needs to move that far before it can engage another hole. So if you have a song that

