

# Thomas Flinn & Co. Saw Manufacturers



## Musical Saw Playing Guide

Written in conjunction with  
The Yorkshire Musical Saw Player

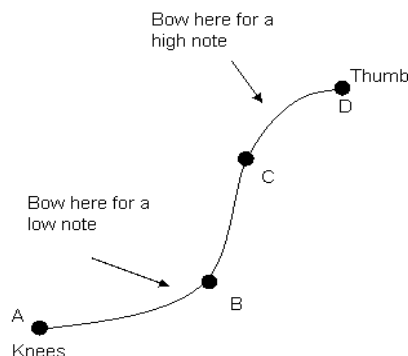
[www.musicalsaws.co.uk](http://www.musicalsaws.co.uk)  
[www.flinn-garlick-saws.co.uk](http://www.flinn-garlick-saws.co.uk)



## Playing The Musical Saw! Some tips to get you started....

You will need a bow with plenty of rosin on to help it glide on the back of the saw. This is what helps the saw really sing as it provides the friction needed to create the vibrations. Make sure the hairs on the bow are reasonably tight. You may also like to use a cheat, which is a handle that helps you to bend the blade (we supply cheats!)

In a seated position, place the saw handle between your knees, with the saw teeth facing you so you can bow the back of the blade (part with NO teeth!). The cheat needs to be attached to the top end of the blade if using one. If you are not using a cheat, then take your left hand (if easiest) and position your hand so the thumb pushes the blade and the rest of your fingers grip the backside of the blade. When you push the thumb into the blade, you can then create the "S" shape needed to make the sounds.



The "S" Shape is like creating virtual strings where the main string is located between B and C (see diagram) or between the two bends. To change the pitch of the note, you will need to manipulate this shape so that you shorten and lengthen the distance between B and C. To raise the note, move the whole blade to your left and push a little more with your thumb (or if using a cheat, push it into the blade more). This will have the effect of shortening the distance between B and C and the shorter the string, the higher the note.

To lower the note, gradually move the blade to your left and right and relax your thumb/cheat a little. At times, you may even join up two strings forming a length of string between A and C. This will produce your lowest notes and that will vary depending on the size of saw. You need to learn to keep the blade in contact with the bow at all times, smoothly changing direction between up and down to make a consistent sound.

With practise and persistence, you should be able to get 2 - 2.5 octaves from our saws!

Our three saw sizes offer a range of sounds, with a soprano (22"), alto (26") and bass (30") saw available.

**Have fun!**

**Email: [orderonline@flinn-garlick-saws.co.uk](mailto:orderonline@flinn-garlick-saws.co.uk)**

**Thomas Flinn & Co. was established in 1923 and now  
stands as the last remaining traditional saw  
manufacturers in the UK.**

**For further product information, please visit:  
[www.flinn-garlick-saws.co.uk](http://www.flinn-garlick-saws.co.uk)**

**Thomas Flinn & Co.  
114 Harvest Lane  
Sheffield S3 8EG  
Tel: 0114 2725387**