

Hulus

(A Brief Introduction)

is a musical instrument of the nationalities living in Yunnan Province of our Country. It has the beautiful melody and the pleasant shape. With years of technological progress, the materials for making the instrument have been diversified. Thus there's great improvement on the timbre, the acoustic accuracy, and the acoustic quality. It becomes more capable to follow up the modern music and more popular to the people.

As a category of reel pipe musical instrument, Hulus consists of a calabash and three tubes. The pipe in the middle is the major sound tube, giving the musical notes of the instrument. The tube on the left gives the chord toning 3, and the tube on the right is for decoration. People may adjust the spacers between the major reed and the sound hole, so as to make fine adjustment to the acoustic accuracy, solve the problem of the acoustic accuracy due to the change of the weather.

Preparation: After the performance everyday, put the Hulus in a clean bag in order to make the dribble flowing out of the holes. It may also take apart the Hulus and clean the dribble in the Hulus for air seasoning.

Maintenance: The reel should dry in a natural way and be cleaned by using any item. At the time of disassembling the Hulus, first loosen the clips, then use the method of the reel and slightly pull the major tube externally, and then pull the reel. Next, pull the two attached tubes. Before the assembly of the Hulus, install the two attached tubes before the installation of the major tube.

The blowing holes of the Hulus should be kept clean. The player should only use his special Hulus.

The Hulus should be given to the bearing capability of the performance as Hulus is a kind of reel pipe musical instrument. The blow should be properly used. Play 123 at the beginning of the performance. The reel is easily damaged if the blow is excessively hard and no musical quality can be played if the blow is too small. The blow should be given into the air port evenly until the gamut is very important to use the blow properly for the performance of a Hulus.

芦丝指法

rs Fingering

按孔 ●

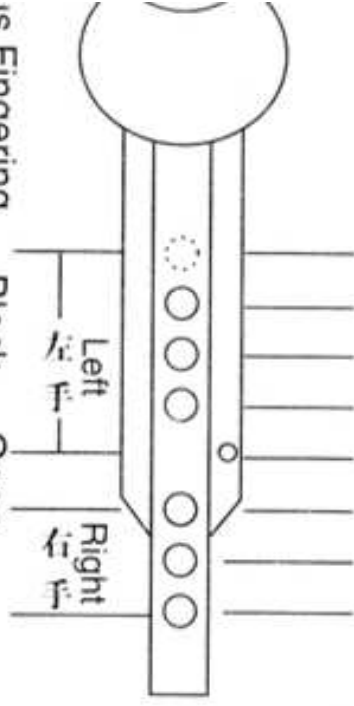
Block

开孔 ○

Open

左手
Left

右手
Right



Piping Method	When piping this group of tones, more forceful blowing will exert some pressure on the reed, with the bourdon 5 as a more obvious example. Press all the holes and blow gently. Then you can hear the musical sound of 3.			When piping this group of tones, the blowing force should be controlled for an even piping, and both overexertion or under-exertion will make the Alt 6 mute.					
	5	6	7	1	2	3	5	6	
大拇指 Thumb	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	
食指 Index finger	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	○	
中指 Middle finger	●	●	●	●	●	○	○	○	
无名指 Ring finger	●	●	●	●	○	○	○	○	
小指 Little finger						○			
食指 Index finger	●	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	
中指 Middle finger	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	
无名指 Ring finger	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	

Hulusi and Bawu belong to the wind instrument of Chinese folk music. They are originated by ethnic Dai in Yunnan in the Southwest China, and are popular among other ethnic groups like e'ang, Hani and Yi in the nearby region. Dai ethnic name hulusi "Bi Lang Dao", where "Bi" means wind instrument, "Lang" means vertically hold, and "Dao" means gourd. In Chinese, "Hulu" refers to gourd, and "si" refers to silk, meaning its sound like "silk". Due to its soft and harmony sound, some people describe it as Oriental Saxophone.

Since both instruments are rooted from the same musical family, sound holes, range and fingerings are the same. Hence if you can play Hulusi, you will be able to play Bawu as well. Having said that, there are some notable differences as listed below:

- Structure (refer to diagram below)
- Piping Approach: Hulusi is vertically held while Bawu is horizontally held (with exception of some advanced bawu models)
- Blowing Strength: Bawu in general is required to blow harder than Hulusi
- Keys: Hulusi is suitable to play with most keys, while Bawu is more suitable for alto and bass with G, F and D major.
- Reed Thickness: Hulusi has a thinner reed than Bawu, and comparatively the tone is a little softer and mellower.

) Structure of Hulusi and Bawu

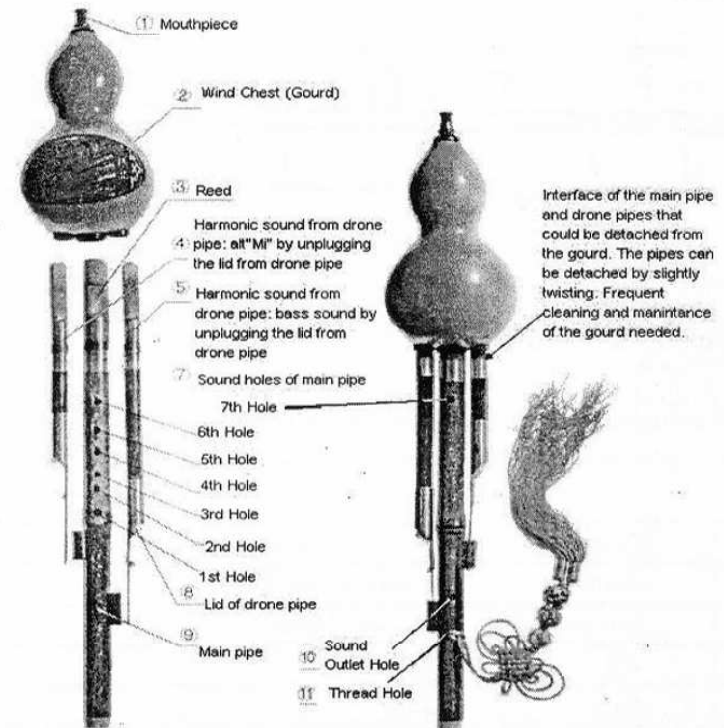
Hulusi is composed of Main Pipe, Reed, Drone Pipes, and the Gourd.

Main Pipe: the melody pipe. It has seven sound holes (six on the front, one on the back) and enables nine full tones and eight semi-tones (combined-tones). In addition, it has one sound-outlet hole and two thread holes at the back.

Reed: located inside the end of the main pipe. Most of them are made of brass, and could be in triangle or rectangle shape.

Drone Pipes: the harmonic pipes. Usually, the treble drone pipe plays the fifth-hole sound of the main pipe, while the low pitched drone pipe plays the first-hole or the third-hole sound of the main pipe.

Gourd: the wind chest. There are various types of gourd planted all over China, while those planted in Yunnan, with its slim shape, thick texture and solid structure is considered the most ideal for hulusi. In addition to natural gourd, quality timber such as ebony and sandalwood are popular choice for more professional players.



1) Tips for Keeping It in Its Best Condition

Avoid Few Hours Non-Stop Playing:

Reed is made of brass, and playing it non-stop for few hours would make it over heat, resulting deformation, or incapable in producing high pitch notes

Avoid too Humid or too Dry Conditions:

Gourd and bamboo are natural plantation products. In general, they should avoid being kept in a too humid (avoid mold) or too dry (avoid crack) conditions. Below are some good habits to keep hulusi in good shape: let hulusi dry for a while after playing, then to put it back to the case; If it is not played, it should still be taken out occasionally for fresh air breathing; Avoid long hours of direct sun lighting, nor exposing it to extreme windy or dry weather.

Avoid Playing after Eating Without Rinsing

Play hulusi after eating but not rinsing faces the risk of blowing food residuals into the gourd or the reed. Time after time, a thick layer of residual dirt is built around the gourd or the reed, affecting the sound quality and blocking the reed to function properly.

Clean the Reed when Sound is Stifling

Dirt around the reed tongue improperly alters the tone into a higher or lower pitch. Should the sound is stifling, and the pipe sound is higher or lower than usual, then there is a high chance that some dirt be built on the reed. If the pipe sound is higher, dirt maybe find on the root of the reed. If the pipe sound is lower, dirt maybe find on the reed tongue. Either cases, detaching the gourd and pipes for cleaning is required.

Make Sure Player Knows the Playing Rule

Not too many people know the unique rule of hulusi or bawu, where to pipe softly for high pitched tones while strongly for low pitched tones. Hence you need to make sure the one who is going to play knows the rule and play accordingly. Otherwise the reed could easily be damaged, making it not able to deliver higher pitch notes.

It is Fine to Glue it

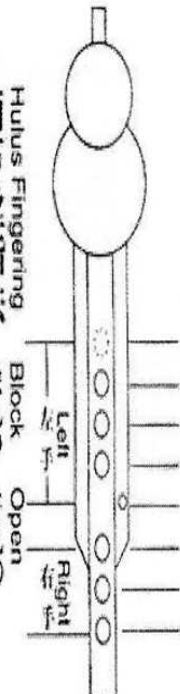
Should you find a minor crack on the gourd or the pipe, it is fine to fix it with the glue.

Use Vaseline to Prolong its Life

Detachable Hulusi usually come with brass or alloy metals for pipes fixture. Using Vaseline not only can keep it shine, but to lubricate it and to prevent rust.

6) Fingering Charts

葫芦丝指法
Hulusi Fingering



吹奏法 Piping Method	在吹奏这一组音时，用气稍存强度对簧片产生些压力，低音更为明显。 When piping this group of tones, more forceful blowing will exert some pressure on the reed, with the bourdon 5 as a more obvious example.	在吹奏这一组音时，用气有疏用气要均匀，高音6用气过大或过不能发音。 When piping this group of tones, the ing force should be controlled for an evening, and both overexertion or under-e will make the Alt 6 mute.
大拇指 Thumb	● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●
食指 Index finger	● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●
中指 Middle finger	● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●
无名指 Ring finger	● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●
小指 Little finger		○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○
食指 Index finger	● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●	○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○
中指 Middle finger	● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●	○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○
无名指 Ring finger	● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●	○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○
	5	6 7 1 2 3 5

All holes closed as "So" (including bass)

Sound	Fingering	Air Flow
3̣	● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●	Slowest Air Flow
5̣	● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●	Faster Air Flow
5̣	● ● ● ● ● ● ● ○	Much Faster Air Flow
7̣	● ● ● ● ● ● ○ ○	Much Faster Air Flow
1	● ● ● ● ○ ○ ○	Moderate Air Flow
2	● ● ● ○ ○ ○ ○	Moderate Air Flow
3	● ● ○ ○ ○ ○ ○	Moderate Air Flow
4	● ○ ● ● ● ● ● ●	Slower Air Flow
	● ○ ● ● ● ● ● ○	
5	● ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○	Slower Air Flow
3	○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○	Much Slower Air Flow

Note: the first to seventh sound holes are from right to left

"●" Blocked hole, "○" Open hole.

All holes closed as "Re" (including alt "Ti")

Sound	Fingering	Air Flow
6̣	● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●	Slower Air Flow
1	● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●	Faster Air Flow
2	● ● ● ● ● ● ● ○	Much Faster Air Flow
3	● ● ● ● ● ● ○ ○	Much Faster Air Flow
4	● ● ● ● ○ ○ ○ ○	Moderate Air Flow
5	● ● ● ○ ○ ○ ○ ○	Moderate Air Flow
6	● ● ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○	Moderate Air Flow
	● ○ ● ● ○ ○ ○ ○	
7	● ○ ● ● ○ ○ ○ ○	Slower Air Flow
	● ○ ● ● ● ● ● ○	
1̣	● ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○	Slower Air Flow
2̣	○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○	Much Slower Air Flow

Note: the first and seventh hole is from right to left

"●" Blocked holes "○" Open holes

All holes closed as "Do" (including alt "La")

	Fingering	Air Flow
	● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●	Slowest Air Flow
	● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●	Slowest Air Flow
	● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●	Faster Air Flow
	● ● ● ● ● ● ● ○	Much Faster Air Flow
	● ● ● ● ● ● ○ ●	Moderate Air Flow
	● ● ● ● ○ ○ ○ ○	Moderate Air Flow
	● ● ● ○ ○ ○ ○ ○	Moderate Air Flow
	● ● ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○	Moderate Air Flow
	● ○ ● ● ● ● ● ●	Slower Air Flow
	● ○ ● ● ● ● ● ○	
	● ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○	Slower Air Flow
	○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○	Much Slower Air Flow

Note: the first and seventh hole is from right to left

● " Blocked holes "○" Open holes

All holes closed as "Fa" (including alt "Re")

Sound	Fingering	Air Flow
2	● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●	Slowest Air Flow
4	● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●	Faster Air Flow
5	● ● ● ● ● ● ● ○	Much Faster Air Flow
6	● ● ● ● ● ● ○ ○	Much Faster Air Flow
7	● ● ● ○ ● ● ● ●	Moderate Air Flow
1	● ● ● ○ ○ ○ ○ ○	Moderate Air Flow
2	● ● ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○	Moderate Air Flow
3	● ○ ● ● ○ ○ ○ ○	Slower Air Flow
	● ○ ● ● ● ● ● ○	
4	● ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○	Slower Air Flow
5	○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○	Much Slower Air Flow

Note: the first and seventh hole is from right to left

● " Blocked holes "○" Open holes

7) Practicing Piece

Fernleaf Hedge Bamboo in the Moonlight

Hulusi Solo

Composer: Shi Guang Nan

All holes closed as 5

月光下的凤尾竹

(葫芦丝独奏)

1=C $\frac{2}{4}$ (全按作5)

作曲 施光南

||: $\underline{1\ 6\ 6\ 1\ 1} \mid \underline{1\ 2\ 2\ 3\ 3} \mid \underline{3\ 2\ 2\ 1\ 1\ 6} \mid \underline{1 - 2\ 1} \mid \underline{6 - -} \mid \underline{6 - -} \mid (0\ 0\ 0) \mid$
 $0\ 0\ 0) \mid \underline{1\ 6\ 6\ 1\ 1} \mid \underline{1\ 2\ 2\ 3\ 3} \mid \underline{3\ 2\ 2\ 1\ 1\ 6} \mid \underline{1 - 2\ 1} \mid \underline{6 - -} \mid \underline{6 - -} \mid$
 $(0\ 0\ 0 \mid 0\ 0\ 0) \mid \underline{1\ 1\ 2\ 3\ 3} \mid \underline{3\ 1\ 2\ 3\ 3} \mid \underline{5\ 1\ 2\ 3\ 3} \mid \underline{3\ 6\ 1\ 2\ 2} \mid \underline{3\ 0\ 6} \mid$
 $\underline{1\ 1\ 2\ 3\ 3} \mid \underline{5\ 1\ 2\ 3\ 3} \mid \underline{5\ 3\ 5\ 6\ 6\ 6} \mid \underline{6} \mid \underline{5\ 1\ 3\ 2\ 1} \mid \underline{1 - -} \mid \underline{1 - -} \mid \underline{6 - 5\ 1} \mid$
 $\underline{6 - 5\ 6} \mid \underline{5 \cdot 1\ 3\ 5} \mid \underline{5 - 6} \mid \underline{3 - 6} \mid \underline{1 - 2\ 3} \mid \underline{1 \cdot 5\ 1\ 2} \mid \underline{2 - 3} \mid$
 $\underline{1\ 6\ 6\ 1\ 1} \mid \underline{1\ 2\ 2\ 3\ 3} \mid \underline{3 - - \vee} \mid \underline{3\ 2\ 2\ 1\ 1\ 6} \mid \underline{6 - -} \mid \underline{6 - -} \mid (\dots \dots) :||$
 $3 - 5 \mid \underline{6 - 5} \mid \underline{3 - -} \mid \underline{3 - -} \mid (\dots \dots) \mid \underline{3 - 5} \mid \underline{6 - 5} \mid \underline{1 - -} \mid \underline{1 - -} \mid$
 $(0\ 0\ 0) \mid \underline{1\ 1\ 2\ 3\ 3} \mid \underline{3\ 1\ 2\ 3\ 3} \mid \underline{5\ 1\ 2\ 3\ 3} \mid \underline{3\ 6\ 1\ 2\ 2} \mid \underline{3\ 0\ 6} \mid \underline{1\ 1\ 2\ 3\ 3} \mid$
 $\underline{5\ 1\ 2\ 3\ 3} \mid \underline{5\ 3\ 5\ 6\ 6\ 6} \mid \underline{5\ 1\ 3\ 2\ 1} \mid \underline{1 - -} \mid \underline{1 - -} \mid \underline{6 - 5\ 1} \mid \underline{6 - 5\ 6} \mid$
 $\underline{5 \cdot 1\ 3\ 5} \mid \underline{5 - 6} \mid \underline{3 - 6} \mid \underline{1 - 2\ 3} \mid \underline{1 \cdot 5\ 1\ 2} \mid \underline{2 - 3} \mid \underline{1\ 6\ 6\ 1\ 1} \mid$
 $\underline{1\ 2\ 2\ 3\ 3} \mid \underline{3 - - \vee} \mid \underline{3\ 2\ 2\ 1\ 1\ 6} \mid \underline{6 - -} \mid \underline{6 - -} \mid \underline{3 - 6} \mid \underline{1 - 2\ 3} \mid$
 $\underline{3 - -} \mid \underline{3 - -} \mid \underline{3 - 6} \mid \underline{1 - 3\ 2} \mid \underline{2 - -} \mid \underline{2 - -} \mid \underline{3 - 6} \mid \underline{1 \cdot 2\ 5\ 2} \mid$
 $\underline{3 - -} \mid \underline{3 - -} \mid \underline{3 - 6} \mid \underline{1 \cdot 2\ 2\ 1} \mid \underline{1 - -} \mid \underline{1 - -} \mid (\dots \dots) \mid \underline{3 - -} \mid$

9) About Dai Tribe

Population, Language, Geography

The origin of Dai can be dated back to A.D. 1st century, and is now having a population of 1 million live primarily in tropical monsoon forests along the Burmese border and Xishuabganna Dai Autonomous Prefecture in Yunnan Province. Some linguists classify its language as Sino-Tibetan language, while others classify it as Thai-Austronesian language. Dai have traditionally been wet-land rice farmers and were the earliest peoples to produce rice in Yunnan. Dai villages are usually established along rivers and often feature huge banyan trees and a delicate Buddhist temple or pagoda. Dai often live in large stilted bamboo houses built above the damp ground in tropical rain forest regions. Chicken and pigs are kept below the house, and a fenced garden surrounds the house

Religion, Literature, Dating

Most Dai are Buddhists and for them, the peacock is a holy bird. Dai are very gentle with their children and seldom beating them. In the old days they send their boys to the temple for having a Buddhist name and mastering the Dai scripts. Dai literature is rich in poetry and folk tales. The poetry is sung and improvised. Famous folk tales include the story of the Peacock Princess, based an old Hindu drama. Dai are famous for their dating and marriage customs. Teenage girls have traditionally had a room away from their parents so she can meet their lovers and signaled their interest in a young man through singing, and a young man would play hulusi to express his love to the girl he love.

Festival

The biggest event in the Dai calendar is the Water Splashing New Year's festival in mid-April. Commemorating the day a beautiful young girl defeated the Evil King of Fire, the festival lasts for three or four days and is celebrated with people tossing water all over one another to get rid of demons are wash away the old year