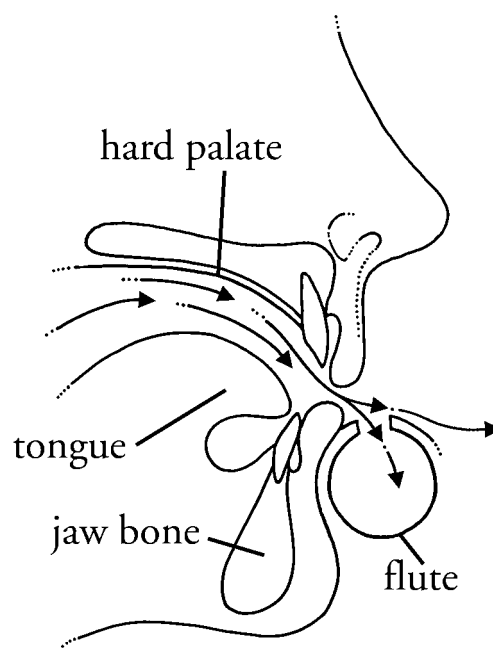


the headjoint against your lip, gently place the center of the near edge of the embouchure hole against the center of the bottom edge or ridge of your lower lip.

4. Once you have found this position, press the headjoint into your lower lip. Press it firmly, but not too hard. You should not press it so hard that your lip is fully compressed and you feel the headjoint pushing directly against your lower teeth. Your lip should form a cushion between the flute and your lower teeth. Your lower lip should now be covering one-fourth to one-third of the embouchure hole itself. Take a look in the mirror and check this. You will probably need to tilt your head down to see this clearly.

5. Now, just so you'll know what *not* to do, go ahead and press the headjoint in too hard, so that your lip *is* fully compressed and you feel the headjoint pushing directly against your lower teeth. This is not very comfortable and you don't want to play this way. Now, back off the pressure so that the headjoint is firmly but comfortably in place again. You can feel that not very much pressure is required.

6. Now, form your mouth as you did in the last exercise and blow a very narrow stream of air, aiming it at the sharp wedge that is formed by the far side of the embouchure hole. This wedge will split the air into two parts, as shown in Figure 6-8, below.



*Figure 6-8. The mouth and flute headjoint in cross section, showing how the anatomy of the mouth directs and shapes the airstream, and how the airstream is split by the far edge of the embouchure hole.*

If you are lucky, you will get a tone right away, but few of us are so lucky. If you are not getting a tone, perhaps your airstream is not being split by the far edge of the embouchure hole. Vary the angle of the air with your lips, as you did when blowing against your hand. Hopefully you will find an angle that produces a tone. You may have experimented in this fashion when trying to get a sound by blowing across the top of a bottle.

If you still don't produce a tone, several things could be amiss. First, your airstream may be too off-center (in the left-right plane) in relation to the far edge of the embouchure hole. Check again in the mirror. With many people the aperture between the lips does not naturally form exactly in the center of their lips. If this is the case with you, you may need to adjust the location of the spot where you anchor the flute against your lower lip.

Second, the aperture between your lips may be too large, in which case you will be blowing a stream of air that is too diffuse. In fact, if you are a beginner, it would be very surprising if your aperture is not too large. Remember the analogy of the garden hose and try to make the opening of your "nozzle" smaller. This involves new muscle skills, ones that don't seem to be called for in other normal life activities. It can take quite a lot of time to gain fine control of these muscles.