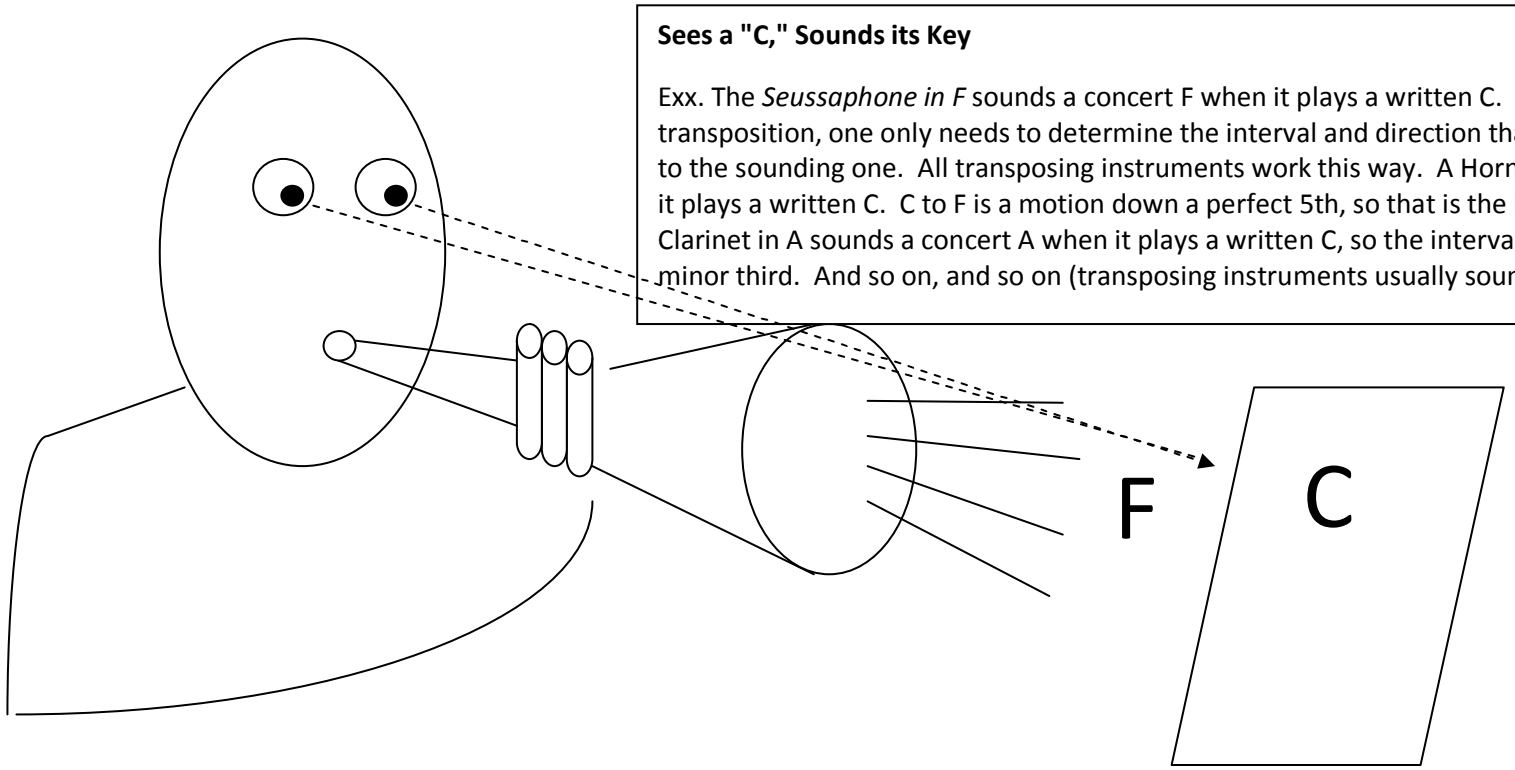

Sees a "C," Sounds its Key

Exx. The *Seussaphone in F* sounds a concert F when it plays a written C. To calculate the interval of transposition, one only needs to determine the interval and direction that relates the written interval to the sounding one. All transposing instruments work this way. A Horn in F sounds a concert F when it plays a written C. C to F is a motion down a perfect 5th, so that is the interval of transposition. A Clarinet in A sounds a concert A when it plays a written C, so the interval of transposition is down a minor third. And so on, and so on (transposing instruments usually sound down).

To calculate the concert pitch for any other note played by the Seussaphone in F, one simple applies the interval of transposition (down a perfect 5th) to every note written in the Seussaphone's part: a written B sounds as an E, a written B♭ sounds as an E♭, a written A sounds as an D, etc. Conversely, to write for the Seussaphone in F, one must write each note in the part a perfect 5th higher than the concert pitch they actually want (one just reverses the interval of transposition). To have the Seussaphone in F play a concert C, one writes a G in the part; for a C♯, one writes a G♯, for a D, one writes an A, etc.

Key signatures are transposed according to the interval of transposition just as pitches are.

PS There is no such instrument as the Seussaphone in F, but if there were, you would find it in books by Dr. Seuss.