

Tuning Forks



Our NICE set.

Purpose: Demonstrate pure tones produced by tuning forks.

We now have a “nice” set of tuning forks which span the 4th octave C₄-C₅. They are

| Note | Frequency (Hz) | Ratio and Interval |
|----------------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| C ₄ | 256 | 1 |
| D | 288 | 9/8 (major 2 nd) |
| E | 320 | 5/4 (major 3 rd) |
| F | 341.3 | 4/3 (4 th) |
| G | 384 | 3/2 (5 th) |
| A | 426.7 | 5/3 (major 6 th) |
| B | 480 | 15/8 (major 7 th) |
| C ₅ | 512 | 2 (octave) |

Notice that these notes are in the ‘Just’ Scale, as opposed to the equal-temperament scale. (See the NOTE on the consonance/beats page.)

Note: Try and keep these “nice.” The set includes a rubber mallet to strike them, please use it. If you whack them on the table top, they become distorted and no longer produce pure tones.

To amplify the sound, you can place the butts against one of the spare wood resonators found in the cabinet, or use the microphone.

Extra Equipment: None

Location: Shelf D4