

# Placement of the head joint

Note: The following instructions affect the position of the lips relative to the embouchure hole.

The treatises published by Hotteterre (1707) and Quantz (1752) are our most important and useful sources for information on the technique of playing the traverso.

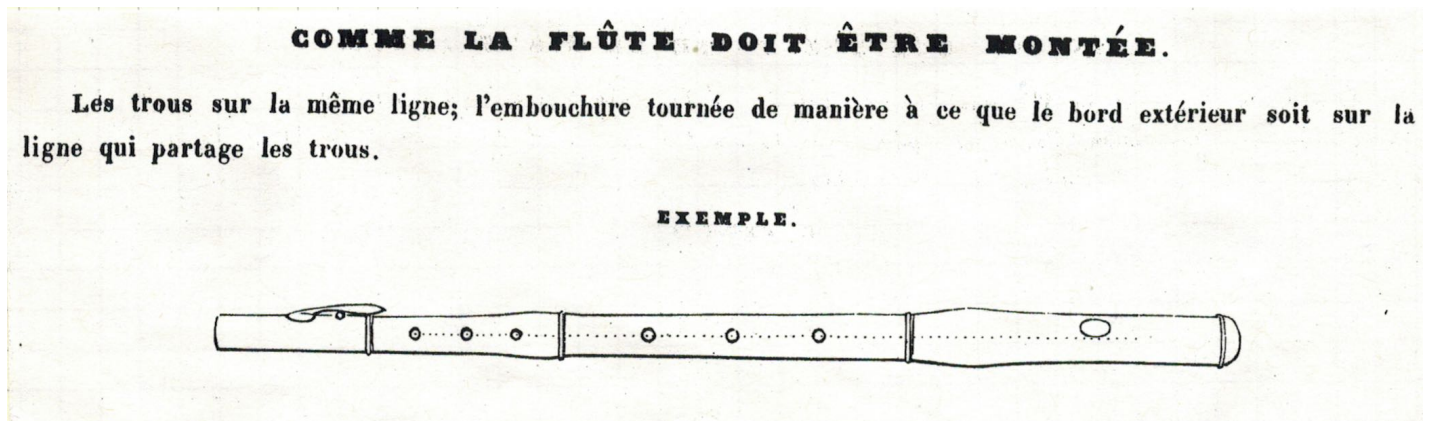
Hotteterre has nothing to say about the placement of the head joint.\*

Quantz gives us some brief instructions in *Chapter II: Of Holding the Flute and Placing the Fingers*:

§2: *The head joint must be turned in towards the [player's] mouth so that it deviates from the straight line approximately the distance of the cross-section of the mouth hole [der Durchschnitt des Mundlochs].*

Later treatises, following Quantz's instructions, include a diagram to make this clearer.

## Jean-Louis Tulou – *Méthode de Flûte* (Paris, 1851)



### How the flute is assembled

The [finger] holes are on the same [dotted] line; the embouchure hole is turned in such a way that the outer edge is on the line that divides the holes.

#### \* Fun Fact

At the end of his *Principles of the transverse flute, recorder and oboe* (1707), Hotteterre says: "Despite all the care I have taken to make these Principles intelligible, if anyone finds any difficulties therein, I will always be happy and honoured to clarify them." — i.e. you can arrange to have a lesson.