

Flute Embellishments List

The Three Most Important Embellishments:

1. **“Tonguing, ” or Attack/Close**
 - Touch your tongue to top of your palate to start a note
 - Say “tah” (normal), “dah” (soft), “kah” (hard)
 - Do it again to finish. Don’t let a note just taper off unless you want it to
2. **“Trilling”**
 - Done with the fingers—keep a steady breath
 - Move the fingers up and down rapidly and evenly. Start slow, speed up
 - Can be only once or many times in a row, on any note
3. **“Bending,” or Slide/Roll/Flick**
 - Slide the finger gradually sideways over the hole
 - Roll the finger gradually downward or upward on the hole
 - Rapidly push the finger across the hole, then lift it, for a flick
 - A "Cherokee roll" is bending up and down scale with no break in between notes

Other Embellishments:

4. **“Chirp” and “Pop”**
 - Blow hard into the flute. Listen for the squeak. Play the next note quickly.
 - Slam the fingers down on one or several notes. Add a “kah” if you want
 - Both can be done with 2 notes, more notes, or cross-fingered, you choose
 - Many variations possible—experiment!
5. **“Flip”**
 - Play a note, rapidly lift the fingers, and squeak by blowing hard.
 - Hold the lower note to get resonance—then squeak to end a song
6. **“Half-holing”**
 - Place the finger on the top or side edge of the hole and close it about half way
 - Most useful on the fundamental (bottom) hole and for some songs
7. **Finger above the air-stream**
 - Let the finger rise and fall right over a finger hole. Feel the air pressure change.
8. **Mouth pursing**
 - Press the rim against the upper or lower lip, move the tongue around the mouth
 - Open the sides of lips, or close lips into a smaller stream of air, for effects
9. **“Vibrato”**
 - Even variation of pressure using airflow, preferably from the diaphragm
 - Slow and even at first, then speed up. Use it as an embellishment, not all the time
10. **“Flutter”**
 - Trilling the tongue quickly against the mouthpiece—“rolled” r’s
 - Try 3 notes up or down going into flutter. Don’t overdo it!