Applications of Alternate Fingerings in the Alto Flute
by Mariana Gariazzo

Alternate fingerings in the alto can offer several solutions to:

Tough passages: We can select special fingerings (partials) to facilitate difficult passages in a piece. (Play a fast G scale)

Optimize Response: We use them to make a note sound better, have better response, improve articulation, and reduce the chances of cracking the note.

Trills: We use to facilitate trills. (E to F#, Ab to Bb – leave pinky down)

Tremolos: They are surely used for tremolos, to facilitate the rapid change between two distant pitches. (Eb and Gb – leave index down)

Color changes: in contemporary music, composers employ alternate fingerings to explore a wide palette of colors. (G fingering + 0ff Thumb + 123 RH ad libitum)

Color trills or _bisbigliando_: is a tremolo between different fingerings of the same pitch, often referred to as a timbral (color) trill. Provides a fast and shimmery change of color.

Intonation: alternate fingering must be used to correct intonation on the third register. _The Alto Flute Method_ by Christine Potter provides an extensive list of alternate fingerings for the alto and bass flutes.

Recommended tuner: _Total Energy_
https://www.tonalenergy.com/

shadowspot by Marty Regan (2016)
Response: Use trill keys to enhance the response of E and F in the middle register.
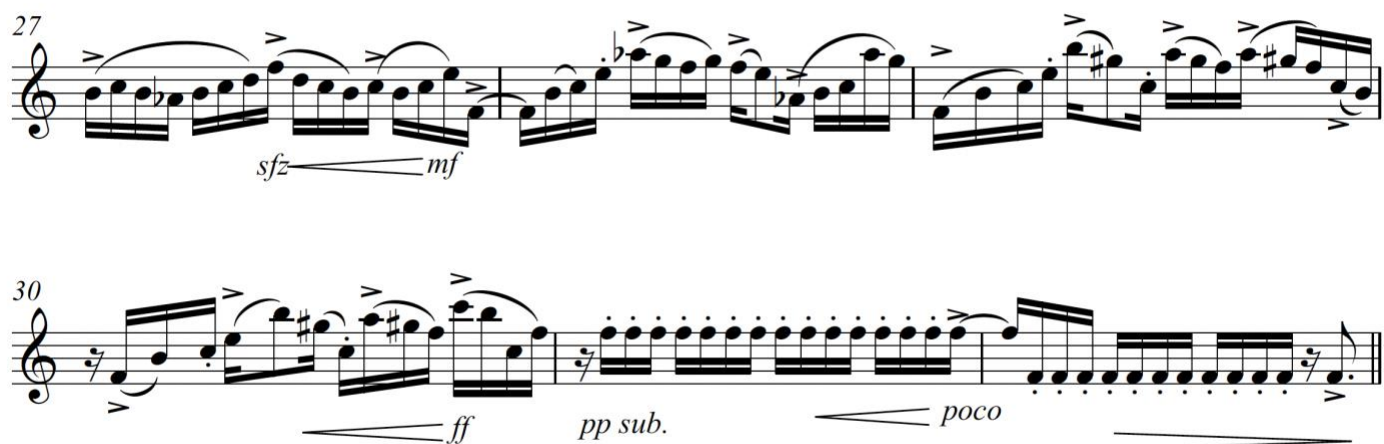
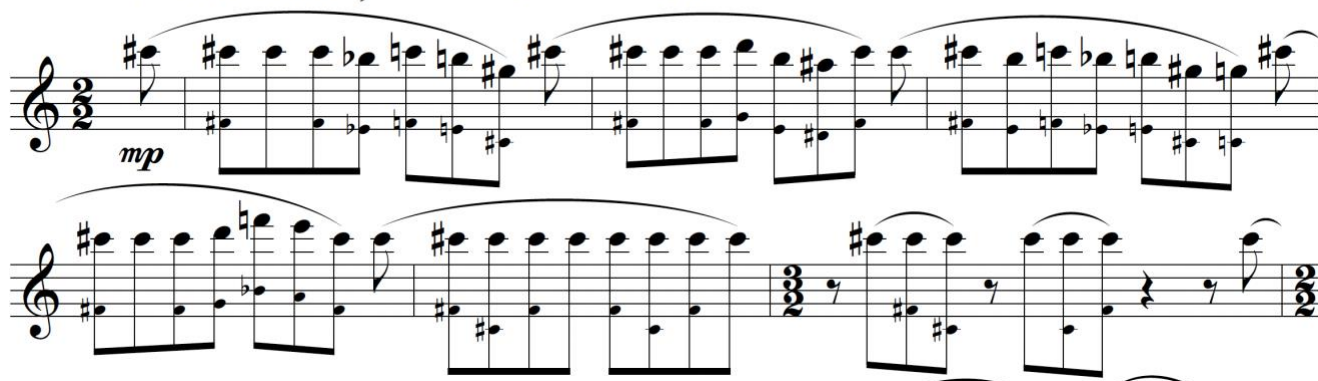**Eight Preludes** for alto flute or bass by Daniel Kressner (2015)
Harmonics

Nakoda by Ellen Lindquist (2002)

Color changes

Desert Song by Philippe Hersant (2010)
Microtones