CLARINET TRANSPOSITION

Definition: (Abel, Willi. Harvard Dictionary of Music, 2nd Ed., Cambridge, MA: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 860.)

Instruments for which the music is written in a key or octave other than that of their actual sound. This method is widely used for wind instruments, such as the clarinet in Bb, whose natural tones are the harmonics of Bb. Since the player of this instrument Bb is the simplest key, it has become customary to present this key to the player in the simplest notation, i.e. C major. The transposition to be made from the written part to the actual sound is indicated by the interval from C to the pitch not of the instrument, e.g. to Bb in the case of the Bb Clarinet.

INSTRUMENTS	TRANSPOSITION	SOUNDS (*therefore, you must*)	WRITE
Eb Soprano Clarinet	**m3**	Higher	DOWN
C Clarinet	at pitch	at pitch	at pitch
Bb Clarinet	**M2**	Lower	UP
A Clarinet	**m3**	Lower	UP
Eb A lot Clarinet	**M6**	Lower	UP
Bb Bass Clarinet	**M9** (M2 + octave)	Lower	UP
EEb Contra-alto	**M6** + octave	Lower	UP
BBb Contra-bass	**M9** + octave (or M2 + 2 Octaves)	Lower	UP

Transposition is a function octave displacement!

Concert Bb	Bb Clarinet	Bb Bass	BBb ConBass	Eb Soprano	Eb Alto	EEb CAlto	A Clar