

Tips for the Clarinetist

5 Tips for Effective Practicing

Finding an effective way to practice is important in order to maximize your practice time. Here are some techniques that I recommend:

1. **Slow Practice**

I can't emphasize this enough. If you are not practicing correctly and you continue to make the same mistakes, your mistakes will almost definitely make an appearance in your performance. Pick a tempo that you can play the entire passage perfectly and start from there. Gradually build up your tempo using a metronome.

2. **Use a Metronome**

Always use a metronome when practicing a new piece of music. Metronomes are a great way to track your progress. Write down your tempos so you can see the progress you are making.

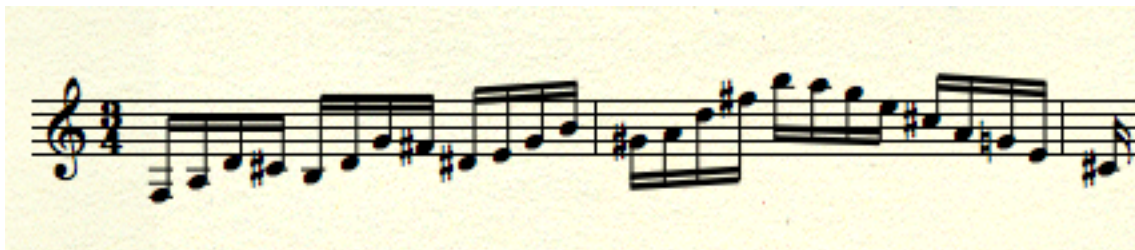
3. **Identify Problem Areas**

After playing through the music mark the problem area. Practice these sections every practice session. It is not necessary to practice the entire passage or piece every time you pick up your instrument. Once you are comfortable with the problem areas you can practice the entire piece or section that you have been working on.

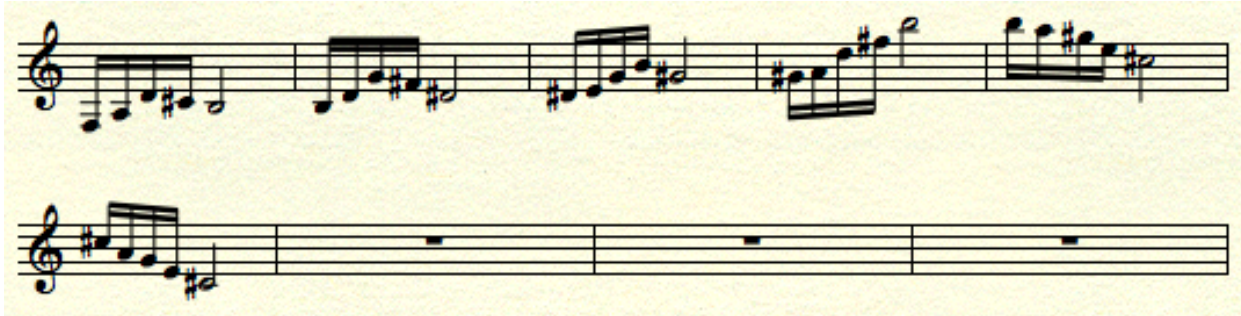
4. **Practice in Small Groupings**

Long sections are difficult to learn because our brain can only process small groupings at one time. Break down long difficult passages into smaller, more manageable ones.

Original Passage



Small Groupings



5. Alternate Rhythms

Using alternate rhythmic patterns is a helpful way to learn technically challenging passages. Here are some patterns I like to use.

