



ClariNotes



Practice, Practice, Practice Techniques for Effective Practice

1) Chunking

-This technique works best for long 16th note passages. Long passages are challenging because our brain can only process smaller “chunks” of information at a time. By breaking the passage into manageable “chunks,” complicated passages become easy.

Original Passage

“Chunked Passage”

63

2) Five Rhythms

-Taking a passage “out” of rhythm is a common and helpful practice technique. Here are five ways to clean-up any passage that is isn’t quite under your fingers.



Play triplets, but start on the 2nd note.



Play triplets, but start on the 3rd note.

About This Newsletter

My intention for this newsletter is to offer tips and techniques for teaching and playing clarinet. It is designed for teachers and students alike. The clarinet is unlike many of the other woodwinds in approach to voicing, articulation, and register change. I hope that this will become a great resource for anyone wanting to improve their clarinet technique.

Feel free to contact me with questions.

Dr. Adam Ballif
ballifa@byui.edu
www.adamballif.com

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

“Practice Makes Perfect” is a common phrase among musicians, but really it is a bit of a misnomer. A more accurate statement is “Practice Makes Permanent.” If you aren’t practicing correctly, or you continue to make the same mistakes, your imperfect

playing will most certainly transform into an imperfect performance, despite the many hours in the practice room. The key to more perfect performances is to practice effectively and correctly from slow to fast, and always with a metronome.