



# ClariNotes



## Metronome Work Don't Keep the Doctor Away

### Have Specific Tempos for Everything

- Use a metronome for every part of your practicing
  - Long Tones (♩ = 60)
  - Scales, Arpeggios, Thirds (♩ = 88, 126)
  - Articulation, Languis Pg. 22 (♩ = 104, 112, 120, 132, 144, etc...)

### Use Subdivisions

- Use an 8<sup>th</sup>-note subdivision instead of a quarter-note pulse only. This will help you develop very even fingers and prevent you from rushing in between the beats.

### Go Up 4 Clicks At A Time

- Using a metronome is the key to speeding up technical passages. Don't try to go too fast too soon. Increase the tempo by multiples of four. Each increase in tempo will not seem much faster than the one previous. Before you know it, you will be playing the passage at tempo.

### Practicing Asymmetrical Meters (5/8, 7/8)

- In order to practice asymmetrical meters, you need to use a constant subdivision. Put the metronome on 8<sup>th</sup> notes, or 16<sup>th</sup> notes if necessary. Don't give up by turning the metronome off.

### 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.

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### USING A METRONOME TAKES PRACTICE

I find that practicing with a metronome is challenging at first for most students. It seems like a simple and easy task: simply play with the click. For some reason, as hard as people try, that darn metronome seems to speed up and slow down. "Why can't it stay steady?!"

When it gets frustrating to play with your metronome, don't succumb to the temptation of turning it off. Practicing effectively with a metronome is a mark of a true musician and in some ways will be

one of the most important skills you develop.

I am also a believer in foot tapping. The metronome can help you internalize the pulse. Tapping your foot correctly, in time, and with a metronome will help later when it is time to perform without the constant click.

Make sure you purchase a metronome that is loud enough to hear and has options for subdivisions, like this Dr. Beat.

