

## Thirteen Ways of Learning Technical Passages

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(a list developed by participants in the *Now and Present Flute Seminar*, June 2007)

- 1 – Play very slowly; gradually increase speed (one digit up on the Metronome). Also try putting metronome up three, then down one notch. (1a) → Alternate playing half tempo, then tempo; half tempo, tempo. Loosen with each repetition, using very light finger action.
- 2 – The seven usual practice rhythms (plus others if they seem to help):
  - dotted eighth and sixteenth
  - sixteenth and dotted eighth
  - two eighths and two sixteenths
  - two sixteenths and two eighths
  - eighth, two sixteenths, eighth
  - eighth, triplet sixteenths
  - triplet sixteenths, eighth
- 3 – SING IT!
- 4 – Additive clumps: notes 1-2, 2-3, 3-4/ then 1-2-3, 2-3-4, 3-4-5/ then 1-2-3-4, 2-3-4-5, 3-4-5-6 etc. (play quickly)
- 5 – Play backwards
- 6 – Add-a-note: 1-2, 1-2-3, 1-2-3-4, 1-2-3-4-5, etc., and (assuming nine notes total) also play 8-9, 7-8-9, 6-7-8-9 etc. (play quickly)
- 7 – Thought-practicing. (Imagine the pitches, the sound color, the finger movements, and lip-tongue-jaw movements, without moving any muscles. Don't be surprised if it takes longer than you think. Then play, and keep alternating.)
- 8 – Play the notes without rhythms; say the rhythms without the notes
- 9 – Combine with idiotic movements (kick, hop)
- 10 – Increase focus by playing against distractions (radio, etc.)
- 11 – Rhythmic displacement (put a beat inflection on the second 16<sup>th</sup> of every beat, then on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, then on the 4<sup>th</sup>)
- 12 – “Moyse-ing” the passage (Play note 1 to 2 in the *Art of Sonority* rhythm: quarter then dotted half; repeat; then from note 2 to 3, quarter to dotted half, then repeat, and so on.)
- 13 – Nine times very slow, one time fast; then nine times very slow again, then one time fast. Repeat the entire process nine times. (Do not repeat the fast time even if it isn't good yet.)