

TIPS ON HOW TO PRACTICE

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1. Practice Meticulously. Try to address as much as possible using the least as possible.
2. Practice areas that are more challenging. Don't practice over and over areas that you are able to play.
3. Take phrases apart and then put them back together. "Skeletonize" the phrases and learn where the air pattern flows.
4. Have a schedule (game plan) and follow it.
5. Make sure you are warmed-up (physically and mentally).
6. Keep distractions to a minimum.
7. Use miscellaneous devices to achieve your goal. Use rhythmic displacement, flutter tonguing, slurring, over articulation, etc.
8. If recordings and scores are available, use them but don't copy them. Be yourself.
9. Make sure you are in shape (don't practice if you are struggling with the notes or endurance). First, make sure you are in shape and then begin practicing. This will limit bad habits.
10. Achieve a consistent end result. The end result should be your sound, style, phrasing and intonation. They should all be appropriate for the piece being studied/performed.
11. Practice performing. Performing is much different than a practice room. A consistent performance routine is also necessary for success.
12. Keep the inspiration flowing. Go hear other players that are great musicians, go hear orchestras, chamber music, etc. New ideas come from hearing others play. Listen and learn.