

REED DRILLS

Dr. Ashley Barret
Professor of Oboe
UNCG School of Music

These exercises are to be done with the reed alone. They demonstrate basic fundamental of oboe tone production and embouchure development. These exercises should be done for a few minutes each day. They are important for building control and stamina and can assist in identifying if a reed is doing all that it should.

1. **Reed "Push ups"**
 - a. The slide: slide from C#-A
 - b. The step: step back and forth in half steps from C-B, B-Bb, Bb-A; C-C#, C#-D. Expanding the interval down: C-Bb, C-A; C-D, etc.

Roll reed in and out with embouchure. No jaw motion. Keep good, clear, focused tone. Practice with hands and without.
2. **Long Tone "Drives" Bb/B/C/C#**

3,5,7,9,11,13, and 15 beats long @ mm=60 on each pitch. Keep tone clear, round, and compact. Absolutely steady dynamics. Practice with and without tonguing to mark each beat.
3. **The Diminuendo Bb/B/C/C#**

Same as above, but keeping pitch absolutely steady.
4. **Crescendo/Diminuendo Bb/B/C/C#**

Same as above. Dynamic intensity represented by 1-3-1, 1-5-1, 1-7-1, etc.
5. **Quick Diminuendo or "detache" articulation**

Very quick taper, allowing pitch to rise, but never above a C (e.g., B-C)
Air and lip release.
6. **Single Tongue**

Keep tone clear and even; pitch stable and always "on the wind." With no hands, reed should not move at all. Practice legato and staccato. Staccato may be practiced "detache" or with tongue stop.
7. **Double Tongue**

Ta-Ka, Tu-Ku, Kit-Tee, Nu-Gu
Keep articulation positioned as forward in mouth as possible. Reed must be light and easy.
8. **Fluttertongue**

Raise tongue towards palate until air causes tongue to vibrate. Speed is controlled by how far back or forward tongue vibration is placed. Uvular vibrato is discouraged. Middle to back of tongue is preferable.

9. **Vibrato**

Practice different speeds and width to develop control and flexibility.
Exaggerate. Listen for round swing or loop in pitch. No mouth vibrato. No guttural throat vibrato. Use abdominal or laryngeal. Use metronome if needed.

Ostoich/Barret