

Tips for Practicing

Spending a lot of time practicing is always a good idea, but it does not always make you better.

To really get better, you should follow some guidelines when you practice.

Remember, practice does not make perfect.

Perfect practice makes perfect.

Use The Right Tools!

- ☑ Get a metronome. Prices range from \$12 to \$35, depending on quality.
- ☑ Use the metronome. Ask me what to use it for, and how to use it.
- ☑ Use a stand. (This is more important than you realize.) Get one for about \$15.
- ☑ Have a pencil with you.
- ☑ Practice in a quiet place without the TV on! (Distracted practice will never make you better.)
- ☑ Sit on a hard chair instead of your bed or the recliner. (You really can't sit up correctly on a soft chair.)
- ☑ Create a journal. Write down what you've worked on so that you can keep track of it.

Use Your Time Wisely!

- ☑ Plan exactly what you are going to work on. Pick a few measures that are hard for you, and make them easy.
- ☑ Don't start at the beginning and just "play through". That's just wasted time.
- ☑ One of my best teachers suggested putting five pennies on the stand. When you play something right, you move one penny over. If you get it right three times in a row, you now have three pennies on the other side. But if you play it wrong once you have to move every penny back to the beginning. The goal is to get it right five times in a row! It really works!
- ☑ Evaluate yourself! Ask yourself if it sounds better, and fix it if it doesn't.

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