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# **Practice Chanter Fundamentals.**

#### Practice Chanter Fundamentals By Jori Chisholm • BagpipeLessons.com

#### The role of the practice chanter

- -A means to an end. Not the goal.-Learning the basics-Exercises (precision and consistency)
- -Tune memorization

#### The importance of technique

- -Playing with control: for solo playing (expression) and band playing (unison)
- -Playing on the beat with precision
- -Keeping a steady tempo (using a metronome)
- -Exercises as a means to an end
- -Good technique builds performance confidence

#### Hand position

- -Straight fingers: It's not about looks.
- -Bottom hand thumb position: The fulcrum
- -The Claw
- -Gripping the chanter: How hard?

## **Note Transitions**

-Crossing Noises: what they are and how to eliminate them -Get control first, and then build speed.





-GDEs: consistency and control



# -The Thumb gracenote



#### Strikes

-Listen for a crisp "pop" sound. Not too light, not too heavy.

- -Low A, B, C Strikes to Low G
- -D Strikes to Low G (Heavy) or C (Light)
- -E Strikes to Low A
- -F Strikes to E
- -High G Strikes to F
- -High A Strikes to G (Thumb Strikes)





## The Thirteen primary embellishments (9 Doublings + 4 Low G based movements)

#### Doublings

-Low G, Low A, B, C, D, E, F -High G & High A -Gracenote vs. Theme note -Crushing: Symptoms and how to fix it -Gracenotes vs. Theme notes

-The Perfect Doubling: small gracenotes with lots of separation

BEAT: the first gracenote of the doubling

#### F Doubling



C Doubling





High G Doubling





#### Birls

- -The Seven
- -Tap-drag

-Others: Down-Up, Up-Down, and Double-Tap -The Heavy Birl

BEAT: the first gracenote of the birl







#### **D-throws** -Heavy vs. Light

as written:







# BEAT:

## Grips

-The importance of Low G -Playing grips from D: the B gracenote -What is a leumluath? A grip to E

**BEAT:** the note following the grip





#### Taorluaths

-The importance of Low G -Playing taorluaths from D -Some end on B or C

BEAT: the E gracenote of the taorluath



Other movements: -Darado or 'bubbly note' -Edre -Chedre -Crunluath

#### Suggestions for further study:

**BagpipeLessons.com Video Lesson Downloads:** A series of video lessons available for instant download. Lessons are focused on one specific area, such as D Throws, gracenotes, Doublings, or a specific tune type. Lessons also cover hands-on topics such as reed selection, tying in a bag, setting up drones reeds, bagpipe efficiency, steady blowing, and more.

**BagpipeLessons.com Tune Lesson Downloads:** A comprehensive tune learning solution. Each Tune Lesson Download includes: a high-quality, studio-produced audio recording of your tune played by one of the world's top pipers, a professionally-typeset printed sheet music for your tune -- perfectly matched to the audio recording, a detailed audio instructional lesson on the tune, including learning tips, practice strategies, suggestions for improvement, and demonstrations played on the practice chanter, and an additional sheet of BONUS written instructional materials related to your tune.



Jori Chisholm is a top solo competitor and a member of the current and six-time World Champion Simon Fraser University Pipe Band. He's one of the world's most sought after bagpipe instructors and the founder of BagpipeLessons.com -- the internet's leading source for information on learning the pipes with video and audio lessons on a wide range of topics available for instant download. Jori lives in Seattle and teaches students around the world via Skype and webcam. In 2009, Jori launched PipeBandTunes.com – the first site to offer downloads of complete pipe band scores, with matched sheet music and recordings for pipes, side, bass, and tenor drums.