

DEVELOPING FINGER DEXTERITY

Finger dexterity is something you will need to be able to play fast runs of notes and in adding ornamentation with your playing. This will help you to move beyond playing in the basic scale and allow you to hear more of how the sounds work together with your fingering and with your breath. When improved finger dexterity is combined with good technique and articulation you begin to set the magic sounds of the flute in motion.

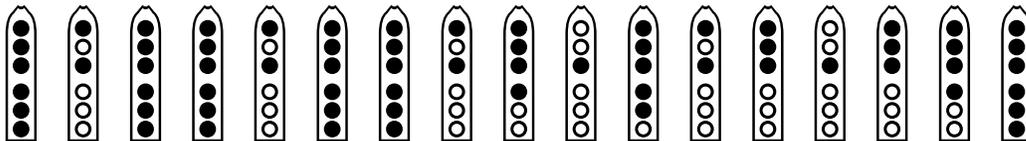
When practicing finger dexterity, the goal is to develop an easy and lighter movement for each finger. A common mistake in developing finger dexterity is trying to play too fast too soon. Put on your patient hat and practice the finger exercises slowly and gradually increase your speed. In practicing slowly, you are giving your body an opportunity to develop the muscle memory and the musical memory that makes it easier to increase your speed and become more skilled and/or fluid in your playing.

STEPS IN DEVELOPING FINGER DEXTERITY

A good tip is to make sure you are varying the patterns that you are practicing and listen intently to the sounds as your fingers move. While a flute can be played by reading notes or tablature, a good portion of becoming a skilled player is in listening to how the notes are combining together and allowing this to become embedded in your musical memory.

BASIC SCALE EXERCISES TO ENHANCE CONTROL OF FINGERING

In the basic scale, you are generally playing one note a time. With this fingering practice you will develop more skills in making your fingers work in unison while lifting up and placing down your fingers. This will help your fingers work together as a unit covering the holes and enhance your confidence when playing.



For some this will be an easy exercise, for others more challenging. The goal with this is to be able to control your fingers and have clean sounding notes as you lift fingers off and clean sounding notes when you place two or three fingers back down.

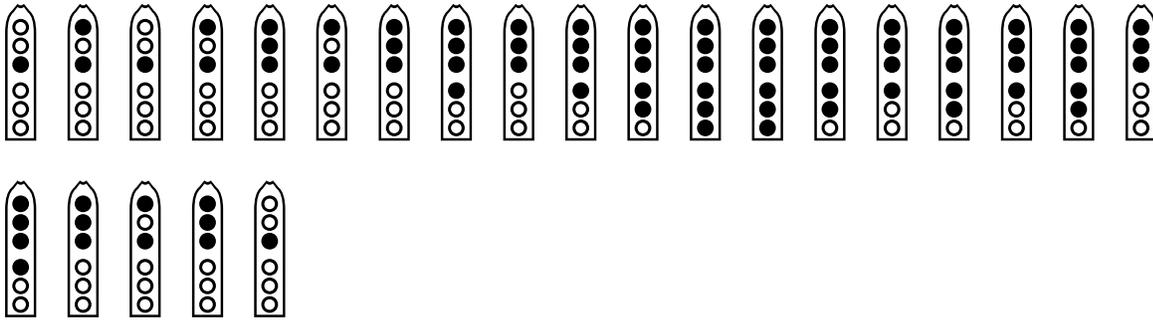
PLAYERS NOTE: you can play this exercise from left to right and then from right to left to further develop your playing and your listening skills.

EXPANDED BASIC SCALE EXERCISES

These exercises will help you develop your speed and fluid motion when covering and uncovering holes. I call this exercise the waterfall exercise. Once you achieve playing it smoothly and with a little speed it reminds me of a waterfall.

Start slowly and listen as you play so that you are hearing the notes and playing cleanly. Once you are comfortable with that you can speed up. This is a good exercise as well to vary the length you hold the notes and to practice using your breathing to add some texture to your playing.

WATERFALL EXERCISE



With this exercise you can start on any note and move through the fingering techniques.

Terry Mack, Copyright, August 2018 All Rights Reserved