

# PRACTICE TECHNIQUES: PASSAGE WORK

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## 1. Experimentation & Analysis

- a. Play through the passage and identify trouble spots.
  - i. Remember that difficulty often lies in transitions, especially between notes with awkward fingerings.

## 2. Isolation & Repetition

- a. Isolate the trouble spot.
- b. Practice until you can play it *three times in a row* without mistakes
  - i. Remember to practice the notes on both sides of a difficult transition.

## 3. Memorization

- a. Practice the trouble spot without looking until you can play it memorized three times without mistakes.

## 4. Context

- a. Practice getting into and out of the trouble spot by adding beats/measures before and after little by little.

ALWAYS make sure that the last time you play a passage, it is slow and accurate. For all passagework, the priority should be accuracy rather than speed. Repetition is only effective if you repeat the right thing, regardless of speed. Remember, you are training your brain more than your fingers. Make sure your practice is slow enough for your brain to perceive what's happening.

Remember that a large percentage of the music that you will need to play is made up of portions of scales and arpeggios. The best thing you can do to give yourself an edge technically is to learn your scales thoroughly. When learning your scales, make sure you do it in rhythm so that they will be even.