Bagpipe Master Presents

HOW TO PLAY THE BAGPIPE
Dedication

First, a big thank you to everyone that has
Contributed to Bagpipe Master. Much of this
Book is in response to your comments and questions.

Second, thank you Mom and Papa for helping me dare to dream big.

Even though you guys sometimes made me practice my
Pipes in the barn with the horses and cows,
You’ve always been there for me.

Finally, Thank you Jessica for all the help and support.
You are my love and inspiration.
Introduction

What to Expect From this Book
If you are new to the bagpipes or consider yourself a beginner, this is the perfect book for you. In this book you will learn the basic finger movements and exercises needed to play the bagpipes. Each chapter will build upon the last and by the end of the book you will be able to play 10 complete bagpipe tunes!

In order to play the full bagpipe you must first learn to play the tunes on the practice chanter. Once you feel comfortable on the practice chanter you can transition to playing the same tunes on the full bagpipe. This book focuses exclusively on learning to play the practice chanter. Learning to play the full bagpipe will be taught in future courses.

How to use this Book
This book uses a variety of teaching methods. You will find sheet music, photos, illustrations, video links, and written instructions. While most of the sheet music is spread throughout the book, you will also find an additional printer friendly version of all the tunes and exercises at the end of the book. You will notice much of this book is filled with video links that will take you to private YouTube tutorials. To access these links, look for underlined text in blue. As an example please click on the following link:

Click here ➔ Getting Started ➙ Click here.

Remember, these links require that you are first connected to the internet.

How Long Will this Course Take?
The book is broken up into 19 chapters. The chapters are organized in a way that allows you to move at your own pace. As you complete a chapter, you should feel pretty comfortable with the information taught in that chapter. Keep in mind not all chapters are equal. Some chapters will require more time than others, so don’t worry about how fast you get through each chapter. That being said, it is expected that most students will require 8-12 weeks to complete the course.

Practice Makes Perfect
Most importantly make sure you practice consistently. You know what works with your schedule. Just make sure you are setting aside a consistent amount of practice time throughout the week. Small amounts of practice time throughout the week make a big difference.
# Table of Contents

Dedication  2
Introduction  3
Table of Contents  4
Lesson 1: History of the Bagpipe  6
Lesson 2: Equipment and Care  8
Lesson 3: The Notes  11
Lesson 4: Grace Notes  18
Lesson 5: The Throw on D  20
Lesson 6: Music Notation  22
Lesson 7: Strikes  25
Lesson 8: The Minstrel Boy  27
Lesson 9: Scots Wha Hae  29
Lesson 10: The Grip and Birl  31
Lesson 11: Wearing of the Green  33
Lesson 12: Rocking the Baby  35
Lesson 13: Mairi’s Wedding  37
Lesson 14: Drops of Brandy  39
# Table of Contents

Lesson 15: The Mist Covered Mountains .................................................. page 41  
Lesson 16: Hundred Pipers ................................................................. page 43  
Lesson 17: O’er the Bows to Ballindaloch ................................................. page 45  
Lesson 18: The Fairy Dance ................................................................. page 47  
Lesson 19: Final Thoughts .................................................................. page 49  
Thank You ......................................................................................... page 50  
Acknowledgements, Resources, & Works Cited ........................................ page 51  
Practice Scale & Exercises .................................................................. page 52  
Complete Sheet Music for Tunes ............................................................... page 63  
Blank Sheet Music ............................................................................... page 73  

---

**Attention**

This PDF document is only a small sample of the book. It is intended to give an idea of what to expect by showing the first few pages of the book and also skips ahead to lesson 7 about strikes.
Dividing the Notes
A strike is basically a grace note that divides two of the same note. The strike is usually a note lower than the two notes being divided.

For example, let’s say you wanted to divide two E notes. You would drop your E finger to create a low A, and then quickly raise your E finger again.

The music is written like this:

While there are a variety of strikes possible, I will only focus on the most popular ones right now. When you have mastered this section and would like more of a variety, feel free to practice with the more complete list of strike exercises included at the end of this book.

Strike on High A

Strike on E
Some strikes consist of a single grace note, while others may be combined with a G Grace note. Below is a step-by-step demonstration of a strike on D with the added G grace note. For further explanation click on the video link below.

**Strike on D**

![Musical notation for Strike on D]

**Helpful Tip!**
An excellent way to help master any exercise or tune is to practice handwriting the sheet music. You will be shocked at how much this helps. At the end of this book is some blank sheet music you can print and use to practice writing. Trust me this helps!

www.BagpipeMaster.com
Want to Learn More?
If you liked my teaching style and want to learn more, click on the following link to get your own copy of “How to Play the Bagpipe”

http://www.bagpipemaster.com/my-ebook/