



DOJO UNIVERSITY

Music, not just bagpipes.

Tuning & Air

If you have to choose between learning how to tune your bagpipes, and how to get them to hold air – which one would you choose?

What about if you had to choose between learning to play a cracking hornpipe, or learning to play a simple march with accurate rhythm and all the gracenotes as written?

While many of us might want to learn to tune properly instead of doing routine maintenance, it would be a pretty futile exercise to try to tune while you're losing air pressure. Similarly, while riffing off a cool tune in the pub might be your goal, you're not likely to be able to tackle the hornpipe at a sizzling speed unless you can first play simple melodies and embellishments well.

Although some elements of piping may be more exciting than others – there's a right order to learn them in.

First, you need a strong foundation. A strong core.

Do you ever feel like you've been working and working and working at the same stuff forever, and have seen no true meaningful improvement? This is likely why.

You should never beat your head against a wall without seeing noticeable improvement in a reasonable period of time. This should be an obvious indicator that you're approaching something the wrong way!

Don't focus on the advanced stuff before you've dialed in your 'core' fundamentals. That's how the creation of anything works – whether you're starting from day one, rebooting your entire approach after years of struggling, or simply looking at a brand new tune for the first time, your strategy should always be the same – begin at the foundation, and move towards complexity, in the right order.

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