

ATSSB Year A Clarinet

All-State Music Tips

Slow étude tips overall

Tone, Tone, Tone!

“As smooth as glass”

Be sure you have a great reed (on both études)

Tons of dynamics - overdo dynamics (within reason)

Pay close attention to the releases of notes before breath marks

Use a metronome! Count in your head.

Musical Terms (as defined in the back of the étude book):

con grandezza - with grandeur, with dignity

intimamente - intimately

cresc. - getting gradually louder

Slow étude tips by measure number

2 - Keep right hand down the entire time down

3 - Keep right hand down on the 16th notes

4 - Last note should be Ab (only a problem in earlier editions)

6 - Count rhythm very carefully, don't chop E, take a very big breath

7 - Learn without trill/grace notes 1st, then add grace notes, then add trill.

Practice the trill/grace notes separately and then add to music. Tap foot.

8 - Careful counting, don't forget to tongue when needed, keep right hand down on G#

9 - Right hand down on A, be sure to tongue where needed

10 - Fast air, pop fingers to keep the large jumps smooth, don't chop C

Fast étude tips overall

Confidence! Should sound easy.

Don't let tonguing distort tone.

Overall light, bouncy tonguing

Staccatissimo is shorter and exaggerated

The duramente should be more intense (firm), but not at the expense of tone

The 2nd half will need more practice time than the first half. A lot more.

Dig in and start working on m. 17 - end early and slowly.

Keep fingers as close to keys as possible at all times

You need some tonguing exercises to speed up your tongue so it can execute.

Use a metronome! Even, precise fingers are a must.

Musical Terms (as defined in the back of the étude book):

duramente - firmly, with hardness

leggiero - light, graceful

Fast étude tips by measure number

1 & all similar measures - be sure you tongue correctly. It is tempting to tongue slur 2, tongue 2 on the 2nd half of the measure, but it should be slur 2, tongue 4.

3 - be sure you count the right amount of rests - it has an unusual feel when fast

4 - practice without grace notes 1st, add later

7-9 lean on downbeats a bit to give it a “lilting” feel

10 - trickier than it looks when you get to a fast tempo - practice it extra

11-13 lean on downbeats a bit to give it a “lilting” feel

17-19 - Correct fingerings are:

- 17 - 1st Db - Right coolio (personal preference)
Eb - TopTop
2nd Db - outside left
Gb - thumb, 2 side keys
Eb - thumb 1,2, banana (personal preference)

- 18 - B natural banana
C eighth note - Left golf club

- 19 - Db - outside left

20-22 Correct fingerings are:

- 20 1st Db - Right coolio (personal preference)
Eb - TopTop
2nd Db - outside left
Eb - thumb 1,2, banana (personal preference)

It's also helpful to know that the differences between these 2 patterns (17-19 and 20-22) are that the 2nd pattern has no A natural, no Gb, and no low B natural.

- 22 Db - outside left
- 23 Bb - bottom side key

25-27 Correct fingerings are:

- 25 Eb - thumb 1,2 and 2 side keys
Gb - middle
Eb - TopTop
C - Left golf club
Gb - top 1st finger
Eb - thumb 1,2 and 2 side keys
- 26 Db - Right coolio (personal preference)
Gb - top 1st finger
- 26 Gb - outside left
Eb - TopTop
C - Left golf club
Eb - thumb 1,2 and 2 side keys

