

## INSTRUCTIONS AND EXERCISES.

The Scale for the Bagpipe being a fixed one of one octave, the intending Piper does not require to go deeply into the mysteries of sharps and flats, Bagpipe music in common with other music is divided into parts or measures and each part into bars, single lines drawn across the staff denote the bars and double lines the end of the parts, two dots placed on the side of the double bar signifies that the measure is to be repeated the G clef only is used. A dot placed after a note lengthens it by a half. The figure  $\text{♩}$  placed over or under three notes means that they must be played in the time of two.



*One* *Minim*

*is equal to* *2 Crotchets*

*or* *4 Quavers*

*or* *8 Semiquavers*

*or* *16 Demi-Semiquavers.*

II

Pipe tunes are written in **C** common time— notes to the value of 4 crotchets in the bar and 8 bars to measure.

$\frac{2}{4}$  Two-four time— notes to the value of 2 crotchets in the bar and 16 bars to the measure.

$\frac{3}{4}$  Three-four time— notes to the value of 3 crotchets in the bar and 8 bars to the measure.

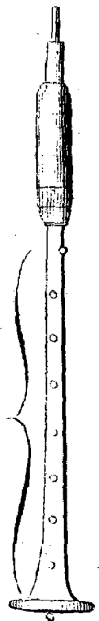
$\frac{6}{8}$  Six-eight time— notes to the value of 3 crotchets in the bar and 16 bars to the measure.

$\frac{9}{8}$  Nine-eight time— notes to the value of 9 quavers in the bar and 8 bars to the measure.

The introductory notes, if any, are added to the time of the last bar in each measure and complete the time of that bar. Grace-notes do not count in the time of the bars.

All grace-notes require to be performed distinctly and firmly by lifting the fingers well up while at practice.

Scale.



Left Hand.	Thumb.	● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ○ ● ○
	1st Finger.	● ● ● ● ● ● ● ○ ○ ○ ○
	2nd Finger.	● ● ● ● ● ○ ○ ● ● ○ ○
	3rd Finger.	● ● ● ● ● ○ ○ ○ ○ ● ●
Right Hand.	1st Finger.	● ● ● ● ○ ● ● ● ● ● ●
	2nd Finger.	● ● ● ● ○ ○ ● ● ● ● ● ●
	3rd Finger.	● ● ● ○ ○ ○ ● ● ● ● ● ●
	4th Finger.	● ○ ○ ○ ● ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○

The opposite diagram shows the fingering of the Scale.

Closed holes are represented thus ● and open ones, ○.

The extra G and A at the end of Diagram gives another style of fingering these notes which is often used, as it has the effect of sharpening those notes; it is convenient to be able to play them both ways.

To hold the chanter, place the flat point of little finger of right hand on bottom hole; lay the other fingers down flat so that the holes will be covered by parts between the middle joints, the thumb to be placed directly under the second finger. The thumb will in most cases be painful for some time, but it must be kept there, as that position gives the lower fingers the power required. Place the thumb of the left hand on the hole at the back of chanter, and the flat points of 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> fingers in their places; they must not be hooked round chanter.

In learning the Scale proceed as diagram, care being taken when hands are changed from the note D to E, not to catch. While raising the 3<sup>rd</sup> finger of top hand put back simultaneously the 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> fingers of lower hand and raise little finger; if this is not cleanly done the result is an overlap or short A between. The same thing usually happens between the notes F and G. While putting back 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> finger raise 1<sup>st</sup> finger, they should just pass each other.

Having mastered the Scale it is necessary to practise a few exercises before proceeding to learn simple tunes.

## IV

## Exercise with G grace note.

Grace notes are not fingered according to Scale, the topmost finger of the movement only being used. Thus; to produce G grace note raise and put down 1<sup>st</sup> finger top hand. All the full notes in this exercise require to be fingered as shown in Scale.



Raise 1<sup>st</sup> finger of top hand, and put it down smartly, having all the other holes closed, this will give G grace note and full low G note; raise little finger which gives A then next finger which gives B.



Again raise 1<sup>st</sup> finger top hand, and while doing so drop 3<sup>rd</sup> finger of bottom hand into position of note low A, put down 1<sup>st</sup> finger top hand this gives low A, raise 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> finger of low hand one after the other which gives B and C.



Again raise grace note, at same time drop 2<sup>nd</sup> finger low hand into position of note B, put down grace note which then gives B, raise 3<sup>rd</sup> finger which gives C, raise 1<sup>st</sup> finger; at same time put down little finger which gives D.



Raise grace note and at same time put back 1<sup>st</sup> finger into position of note C, raising little finger at same time, put down grace note which gives C; raise 1<sup>st</sup> finger at same time put down little finger which gives D, drop 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> fingers, at same time raise little finger and 3<sup>rd</sup> finger top hand this gives note E.



Raise grace note and at same time bring bottom hand into position for note D; put down grace note, this gives D; drop 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> and raise little finger and 3<sup>rd</sup> finger top hand, this gives E; raise 2<sup>nd</sup> finger top hand, this gives F. Care must be taken in changing top and bottom hands, that is from D to E, that they do not overlap as the result would be a short A between them.



Raise grace note and at same time drop 2<sup>nd</sup> finger top hand, put down grace note, this gives E; raise 2<sup>nd</sup> finger, this gives F; then raise 1<sup>st</sup> finger, at same time put other finger into position to give G according to Scale.



Having arrived at note G a high A grace note takes the place of the G grace note. Raise thumb and put it down smartly, at same time put down 1<sup>st</sup> finger top hand and raise other fingers required to form F; again come to G, then raise thumb which gives high A.

## High A shake.

This shake is composed of two grace notes—high A and G joined—and is performed by sounding high A and passing the thumb with a smart upward movement over the hole in back of chanter. In playing to high A from any of the bottom hand notes care must be taken not to put down bottom hand before top hand is raised. The movement of the hands requires to be simultaneous otherwise the result is an overlap or short note between them.



Close all the holes in the chanter, this gives the first note G in this exercise, then rise to high A as shown in Scale; perform shake.



As the little finger is already raised put down top hand fingers, which gives low A; again raise top hand and repeat shake.



Raise 3<sup>rd</sup> finger lower hand and at same time put down top hand fingers, which gives B; again raise top hand fingers to position of high A at same time drop back 3<sup>rd</sup> finger bottom hand; repeat shake.



Raise together 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> fingers bottom hand, at same time put down top hand fingers, this gives C; again raise top hand to high A and put down low hand 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> fingers; repeat shake.



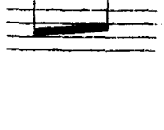
Put down top hand fingers and little finger, at same time raise 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> fingers bottom hand. this gives D; drop lower hand fingers and at same time raise little finger and top hand to high A; repeat shake.



Put down top hand fingers to position for note E, raise top hand fingers to position of high A and repeat shake.



Put back top hand to note F, again raise top hand into position of A; repeat shake.



Put down thumb, which gives G raise thumb and repeat shake.

## VI

## High G shake.

This shake is composed of the two grace notes G and F joined. The G here is not fingered according to the Scale, as the whole top hand except thumb requires to be raised, it being more convenient to strike the F that way. The shake therefore is performed by raising 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> fingers top hand, the little finger of lower hand being also raised, strike top hole of chanter smartly with 1<sup>st</sup> finger finishing with the 3 fingers raised which gives you G, the touch down gives F. In shifting fingers from high G of this exercise care must be taken not to put down G before raising the next note, otherwise the fingering will not be clean.



Sound low G, then raise little finger and top hand fingers as described above, perform shake.



As the little finger is already up, put down top hand fingers, again raise top hand and repeat shake.



Raise 3<sup>rd</sup> finger bottom hand, at same time put down top hand, having sounded B put down 3<sup>rd</sup> finger and at same time raise top hand and repeat shake.



Raise together 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> finger bottom hand while putting back top hand, this gives C; drop 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> fingers and raise top hand and perform shake.



Put down top hand and little finger and at same time raise together 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> fingers bottom hand, this gives D; drop lower hand, raise little finger and top hand and repeat shake.



Put down together 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> fingers top hand, thus gives E; again raise fingers and repeat shake.



Put down 1<sup>st</sup> finger, which gives F; raise finger and repeat shake.

Raise thumb and put down other fingers of top hand to produce high A; put down thumb and 1<sup>st</sup> finger of top hand for F grace note shown raise 1<sup>st</sup> finger smartly; this F has to be very short.

## F shake.

This movement is composed of grace notes G. F. G. joined and is performed by raising 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> fingers of top hand, always having the little finger raised, put down 1<sup>st</sup> finger, raise and put it down again. This striking of top finger twice gives you G. F. G. shake and full note F, the last note of the movement.



Sound low G, raise little finger and top hand and strike smartly twice as described above.



The little finger being already up, put down top hand, sound low A; then raise top hand and perform shake.



Put down top hand fingers while raising 3<sup>rd</sup> finger bottom hand, this gives B; put down 3<sup>rd</sup> finger while raising top hand; repeat shake.



Put down top hand while raising lower hand to C, put back 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> fingers lower hand while raising top hand, repeat shake.



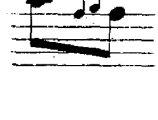
Put down top hand and little finger, raise 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> fingers lower hand, this gives D; raise top hand and little finger while putting down lower hand; repeat shake.



Put down 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> fingers top hand, this gives E; raise them again and repeat shake.



Raise fingers required for G, put down 1<sup>st</sup> finger while raising other finger of top hand, strike 1<sup>st</sup> finger once only.



Raise thumb and put other fingers into position for high A; put down thumb and 1<sup>st</sup> finger while raising others of top hand, strike 1<sup>st</sup> finger once only.

## VIII

## E shake.

This shake consists of grace notes G.E.F. joined, and is performed by raising 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> fingers top hand little finger of course being up also, put down 1<sup>st</sup> finger then raise 2<sup>nd</sup> finger and put it down. Be sure one finger is down before the other is raised. Sound the first note of each group before performing shake.



Sound low G, raise together little finger and 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> fingers top hand, perform shake as described.



Put down 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> fingers, the little finger being already up gives A, raise 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> fingers of top hand and repeat shake.



Raise 3<sup>rd</sup> finger low hand while putting down top hand, this gives B; put back 3<sup>rd</sup> finger low hand while raising top hand fingers required for shake, repeat shake.



Put down top hand while forming note C; put down together 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> fingers lower hand while raising top hand to repeat shake.



Put down top hand while forming note D; put down 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> fingers lower hand while raising little finger and top hand to repeat shake.



Raise 2<sup>nd</sup> finger top hand, this forms F; raise 1<sup>st</sup> finger of top hand and at same time put down 2<sup>nd</sup>, put down 1<sup>st</sup> then raise and put down 2<sup>nd</sup>; this completes the shake.



Form high G, put down 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> fingers top hand having 3<sup>rd</sup> finger up, strike smartly with 1<sup>st</sup> finger once only.



Form high A, put down thumb and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> fingers top hand, having 3<sup>rd</sup> up finger strike with 1<sup>st</sup> finger smartly once only.



## D shake.

This shake consists of notes low G. D. C. joined, and is performed by closing the chanter on low G then raising 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> fingers bottom hand and striking 1<sup>st</sup> finger smartly. Finishing on D the striking of 1<sup>st</sup> finger gives the C in shake.



Sound low G, raise 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> fingers of lower hand and strike with 1<sup>st</sup> finger as described.



Put down 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> fingers and at same time raise little finger, this gives A; put down little finger then raise others required to perform shake as described.



Put down 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> fingers while raising little finger, this gives B; close to low G and perform shake.



Put down 1<sup>st</sup> finger while raising little finger, this gives C; close to low G and perform shake.



Put down 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> fingers while raising little finger and 3<sup>rd</sup> finger top hand, this gives E; close to low G and perform shake.



Put down 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> fingers at same time raise little finger and 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> fingers top hand, this gives F; again close to low G and repeat shake.



Put down 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> fingers at same time raise little finger and top hand to form high G; close again to low G; repeat shake.



Put down lower hand, raise little finger and top hand to form high A at same time, again close to low G and perform shake.

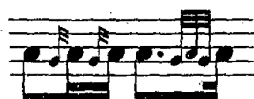
X



Form note D, strike G grace note then 1<sup>st</sup> finger lower hand which gives C grace note.



Form note D, strike 1<sup>st</sup> finger or G grace note then 3<sup>rd</sup> finger or E grace note.



Two ways of writing same movement.

Sound low A, strike little finger with an upward movement, then draw it back, while doing so strike smartly; this movement requires great practice and is a very important one.

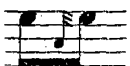


This shake is composed of first the note G, the second may be low G.A.B. or C. the third is D. Sound low A raise G grace note, at same time form note C, put down G grace note, then strike D grace note; this leaves hand in position of note C; again strike G grace note at same time forming

note B, then strike D grace note, this gives shake on B. This shake is performed in same manner while holding the notes low G or A, always making sure G grace note is down before striking D.



While striking G grace note form C; having sounded C raise D grace note and at same time put down 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> fingers lower hand, put down D grace note, this gives A; raise whole of lower hand and put down 1<sup>st</sup> finger or D grace note this gives C; again strike G grace note while forming B, strike D grace note while forming low G, raise 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> fingers lower hand, put down 1<sup>st</sup>, this gives the last B in this movement.



Sound E, strike E finger smartly on lower hand held at note A. G grace note may be used before the first E.



Sound F strike 2<sup>nd</sup> finger top hand smartly to note E. G grace note may be used before the first F.



Form note C, strike G and D grace notes one after the other, raise E grace note at same time put lower fingers to low A, put down grace note; raise G grace note at same time form B; put down grace note and then strike D grace note; while raising E grace note form fingers to low G, put down E grace note.



Have fingers in position of low A, raise and put down G grace note; raise and put down 1<sup>st</sup> finger lower hand or D grace note; raise and put down 3<sup>rd</sup> finger top hand or E grace note. Care must be taken not to raise one finger until the other is down, thus having a distinct A between each grace note. The movement is performed in same manner putting three notes low G B or C in place of three notes A, shown.




Sound low A and strike little finger smartly on note G, substitute notes B for A and strike both fingers raised, play note C and strike the three fingers raised. G grace note may be used before the first A, B or C.



Sound low A, put down little finger, next raise and put down 1<sup>st</sup> finger low hand or D grace note, then raise little finger. The same movement is performed on the notes B and C.



Form note low A strike G grace note, put down little finger then strike D grace note, raise and put down 3<sup>rd</sup> finger top hand or E grace note, at same time raising little finger. Any other note may be used instead of the first A, the rest of the movement being fingered as shown except D.

Where B grace note is used  instead of grace note D, to produce this B grace note strike only 3<sup>rd</sup> finger low hand.



These are two ways of writing the same movement. In the first one D is written a full note and A a grace note, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> way this is reversed. The second way is the more correct as the D in both cases is fingered as a grace note. On E, strike G grace note close little finger then raise D grace note, at same time raise little finger, put down D grace note and raise E 3<sup>rd</sup> finger top hand. Almost any other notes may be used instead of the two notes E shown, but the low G D and A are always fingered in the same way.

## XII



Play as if written:



That is, finger the note B as a grace note strike only the 3<sup>rd</sup> finger lower hand after closing low G.



Play as if written:



That is, finger the note B as a grace note strike only the 3<sup>rd</sup> finger lower hand after closing low G.



Play as if written:



That is, finger the notes D and C as grace notes strike the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> fingers lower hand one after the other having low G closed the last B must be according to Scale.



Strike G grace note on note C, put down all fingers to low G, raise little finger. D and B may be used instead of C shown.

Having mastered all the foregoing, the intending Piper will proceed to learn simple tunes, progressing to more difficult ones. Great care must be taken to learn to play slowly and correctly; playing in quick time will come after careful practice. When able to play a few marches in slow time he will start with the Pipes. It is preferable to begin with only one of the tenor drones going. Having got the drones in position on the left shoulder the bag under the arm and the chanter in the left hand with fingers in position of E commence blowing into the bag until fully inflated. The bag must then be kept tight by blowing and pressing alternately until a continuous and equal sound can be kept up; having succeeded in this proceed to play tunes learnt. In learning to tune the drones it will be found that if out of tune the reed will be heard vibrating very quickly and as the joint of the drone is shifted into tune the vibrations will get slower until perfectly steady. If the drone is tuned to E it ought to be in tune with all the other notes if the chanter reed is correctly set. The setting of this reed requires experience in raising or sinking it in the chanter. When the tuning of little drone has been learnt the big drone may be started, and the other tenor drone in course.