

7 Steps to Faster and Easier Tonguing
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ICA Clarinet Enthusiasts Day
June 5, 2021

Step 1 - Warm Up with GREAT TONE!

A beautiful clarinet sound is the basis for successful articulation. Creating a good sound is always step 1!

Questions to ask:

- Is my breathing relaxed?
- When I play, is my airstream strong and focused?
- Is my mouth shaped with an “ee” or “oo” or “ah” vowel?

Slow Major Scales Down and Up (Level 1)

1. G Major (1#)

Step 2 – Connect the tongue and the reed

Questions to ask:

- When starting a note with my tongue, which part of my tongue is active?
- Which part of the reed does my tongue touch?
- Do I use Tah, Tee or Tu to tongue?
- Am I using an **ATTACK** or a *release*?

7. G Major (1#)

1st rep: T T T T T T T T
 2nd rep: d d d d d d d d

Step 3 – Clear and Bouncy Tonguing (using Tee dee dee or Tu du du)

7. G Major (1#)

Tee-T--d-d---Tee
 Tu--T--d-d---Tu

Step 4 – Speeding Up Repeated Note Tonguing

8. G Major (1#)

Tee----T-d-d-d-d--Tee----T

Step 5 – Playing 5-Note Scale Patterns Evenly (a MUST)

14. G Major (1#)

Step 6 – Adding Tonguing to 5-Note Scale Patterns with Slur 2

14. G Major (1#)

Step 7 – Tonguing 5-Note Scale Patterns All the Way

References:

Deborah Andrus/Marilyn Fleming
Joseph Genna
Reginald Kell

[The Chalumeau Book](#)
Clarinet Staccato – A Workbook
17 Staccato Studies

Released Articulation Techniques

Clarinet players often talk about “release” rather than “attack” in articulation, emphasizing the fact that it is the air, rather than the tongue, which actually creates the tone. Below are some specific examples of the different types of articulation releases possible on the clarinet. Each example always includes the following basic steps:

5 Steps to a Beautiful and Clear RELEASE of your tone (instead of an ATTACK)

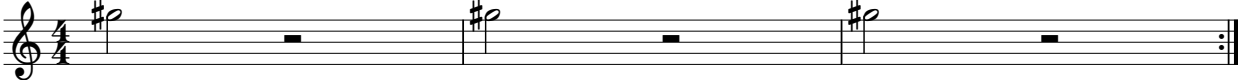
- 1. Breathe in
- 2. Set embouchure
- 3. Gently place tip of tongue to the top(tip) of the reed, or to the right or left side of the reed
- 4. Blow strong air behind the tongue and build up pressure to prepare the tone
- 5. Gently remove tongue to release a beautiful tone!

Legato Release

- 6. Use the same steps as above, but remove the tongue from the reed with a “dee,” “du,” or “lee,” “lu” syllable.

“Play with a fortissimo tone and a pianissimo tongue” - Klug, *The Clarinet Doctor*, p. 93.

- 1) Practice with the mouthpiece and barrel at first, using the steps above. Pay attention to how clear your release sounds. Start with “tee” or “tu”, and then play with “dee” or “du”.



T----- rest then T----- rest then T----- and rest
 Set/Blow/Release Set/Blow/Release Set/Blow/Release



T-----T-----T-----T-----T-----T----- (continuous air)
 Set/Blow/Release



T---T-T-T-----T-T----- (air, tongue gently touches the reed to articulate)

After practicing these exercises on the mouthpiece/barrel combination, then go to the clarion G# on the full clarinet and repeat these exercises and notice what it sounds like. Work to make it sound clear and beautiful. Then you can extend the exercise upward, and change the rhythm.

