

Technique Tip

RESOURCES FOR BEGINNERS ON THE ARS WEB SITE

While it's always better for a beginner to be guided in learning the recorder, by either a teacher or a more experienced mentor, there are times when individuals do not have that support available—or when they seek information on their own. Useful resources have been compiled at https://americanrecorder.org/learning_resources_for_recorder.php (access via dropdown menus). This list of **Learning Resources** for recorder players includes:

- The *ARS Personal Study Program*, with its *Guidebook* and *Music Lists* plus the *13 Stages to Help You Improve Your Playing*, https://americanrecorder.org/personal_study_program.php
- Videos, five of them narrated and demonstrated by Vicki Boeckman, on *How to Play the Recorder and How to Play Simple Songs on the Recorder*; and John Tyson's *Recorder Power*, for classroom recorder teachers. The videos include printable handouts.

Other resources linked from the **Learning Resources** page include fingering charts, an FAQ and links to find a teacher or a workshop to attend. **Online Resources**, <https://americanre->

[corder.org/on-line_resources.php](https://americanrecorder.org/on-line_resources.php) also includes a compilation of outside links.

Another useful ARS web site page lists recent reviews of **Recorder Technique and Method Books**, compiled from *AR*, https://mms.americanrecorder.org/news_archive_headlines.php?org_id=ARSO&cat_id=310067.

Available free to members only, **Other ARS Publications Online**, https://americanrecorder.org/other_ars_publications_online.php, includes links to publications such as:

- *American Recorder Music*, by Constance Primus
- *Improve Your Consort Skills*, by Susan Carduelis
- *Music for Mixed Ensembles*, by Jennifer W. Lehmann
- *Playing Music for Dance*, by Louise Austin
- *Recorder Care*, by Scott Paterson
- *The Burgundian Court and Its Music*, from the Kalamazoo Recorder Players.

Individual articles in *American Recorder* over the years have also provided excellent advice from recorder teachers and other professionals to beginners and less experienced players. Resources listed here start with the January 2001 *AR*; a current project to re-scan the earlier volumes may affect online access to those (although they are posted on the ARS web site, but are not searchable using online tools). For information about articles in the earlier issues of *AR*, it is possible to look up topics in the *Index to American Recorder*, which covers volumes through XXXX (posted at https://americanrecorder.org/docs/AR_full_index_to_VolXXXX.pdf); most of the information of interest to less experienced players is found under the headings starting with "Recorder" near the back. Of special interest may be older articles by Martha Bixler, David Lasocki, Constance Primus, Scott Reiss and Anthony Rowland-Jones.

Also in some volumes before 2001 are articles by **Frances Blaker** in the

Opening Measures Department of AR, collected in the book of the same name and sold by the ARS at <https://mms.americanrecorder.org/members/store.php?orgcode=ARSO>. Blaker is also the author of *The Recorder Player's Companion* (www.prbmusic.com/item23131.ctlg) and from ARS Business Members).

RECORDERS AND THEIR CARE

Care of your Wooden Recorder, https://americanrecorder.org/care_of_your_wooden_recorder.php, compiles tips, plus links to outside web sites with more tips, for taking good care of wooden recorders

Letitia Berlin, "Shopping for a Tenor?," November 2004 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARnov04body.pdf>

Gustavo de Francisco, *Education Departments*: "Basic Recorder Care," Winter 2013 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARwin13body.pdf>; "Oiling Your Recorder," Spring 2014 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARspring14body.pdf>; "Spring Cleaning: Don't forget your Recorders," Summer 2014 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARsum14body.pdf>; series on "Buying a Recorder," Part I, Spring 2016 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARspring16body.pdf>; Part II, Fall 2016 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARfall2016.pdf>; "Differences between Plastic and Wood Recorders," Spring 2017 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARspring17body.pdf>

Carolyn Peskin, *Q&A Departments*: "Pros and cons of thumb-rests...," September 2006 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARsep06body.PDF>; "Readers tell us what they use in place of a thumbrest," September 2009 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARsep09body.pdf>; "Keeping a clean recorder, and the low-down on high F \sharp ," November 2006 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARnov06body.pdf>; "Articulation and lubrication," May 2007 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARmay07body.PDF>

ORDER NOW!



ARS is pleased to offer Frances Blaker's book *Opening Measures*

containing her articles taken from the last 20 years of *American Recorder*, available on the ARS web site at www.americanrecorder.org/opening_measures_by_frances_bl.php

"It is a gathering of topics, some about techniques specific to the recorder, others concerning various musical skills that are pertinent to musicians of all sorts. My goal with these articles is to help recorder players of all levels to move forward in their own playing."
—Frances Blaker

TECHNIQUE/PRACTICING

Frances Blaker and Letitia Berlin, "How to Rate Yourself as a Recorder Player," with self-rating chart, March 2005 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARmaro5body.pdf>

Frances Blaker, a sampling of recent articles in *Opening Measures*: "How to count in half notes," March 2001 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/armaro1body.pdf>; "How to count," November 2001 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/arnov-01body.pdf>; "Two basic skills any musician needs [Music reading/playing 'by ear']," May 2002 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/armayo2body.pdf>; "Use your palate to create your recorder articulation palette," November 2002 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARNovo2body.pdf>; "Ensemble etiquette," March 2003 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARmaro3body.pdf>; "I want to play in a group!," September 2005 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARsepo5body.pdf>; "Intonation revisited," March 2006 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARmaro6body.pdf>; "Where do I stand: a Self-Evaluation Tool...", November 2008 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARNovo8body.PDF>; "The art of practicing," March 2011 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARmar11body.pdf>

Tina Chancey, *American Recorder Practice Project* four-article series: "Practice Makes Perfect? Nah (But it does a heck of a lot of other things)," Winter 2018 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARwinter18body.pdf>; "Solving Technical Problems with a Definitive List of Practice Hacks*," Spring 2019 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARspring19body.pdf>; also Summer 2019 *AR* & Fall 2019 *AR*, https://americanrecorder.org/practice_project.php

Gustavo de Francisco, *Education Departments*: (series on tuning) "Understanding How Pitch Works," Fall 2014 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARFall14body.pdf>; "Working

on Pitch in a Group," Winter 2014 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/Winter14body.pdf>; "Tuning: Learning the Science can help dispel the Myths," Spring 2015 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARspr15body.pdf>; "Temperaments," Summer 2015 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARsum15body.pdf>; also "Good posture is the foundation of good playing," Fall 2018 *AR*, https://americanrecorder.org/docs/AR_Fall18_body.pdf

Susan Groskreutz, "A Recorder Icon Interviewed: A Talk with Anthony Rowland-Jones [including his Five Ps]," November 2003 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARNovo3body.PDF>

Ann Koenig, "Workshop Etiquette for Players," Spring 2014 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARspring14body.pdf>

Carolyn Peskin, *Q&A Department*, "Recorder vibrato," September 2008 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARsepo8body.pdf> (reprinted and updated in the [Summer 2019 AR](#))

Pat Petersen, "Hemiola," *Q&A Department*, September 2005 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARsepo5body.pdf>

Gene Reichenthal, "Some observations of and on conductors," January 2001 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/aro1body.pdf>

Scott Reiss, "Articulation: The Inside Story," January 2006 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARjano6body.pdf>

Scott Reiss and Tina Chancey, "Soundcatcher: How to Play by Ear," November 2011 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARNov11body.pdf>

Anthony Rowland-Jones, "Using Repertoire to Learn to play Alto 'an Octave up,'" November 2008 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARNovo8body.PDF>; "Recorder Expressivity: A Summary," Fall 2013 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARfall13body.pdf>; "Some Thoughts on Keeping Time," Spring 2014 *AR*,

<https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARspring14body.pdf>

Bart Spanhove, "A quiz for recorder players," *Education Departments*, March 2009 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARmaro9body.pdf>; part II, May 2009 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARmayo9body.pdf>

Leslie Timmons, "Starting adult beginners on alto recorder," *Education Department*, November 2008 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARNovo8body.PDF>

Mary Halverson Waldo, "Online Recorder Resources, continued: Instructional videos on the ARS web site," *Education Department*, September 2011 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARsep11body.pdf>

Technique Tip Departments:

Vicki Boeckman, "Thoughts on listening and using your ears," January 2008 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARjano8body.PDF>

Lisette Kielson, "Reeling it in [recording yourself]," May 2008 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARmayo8body.PDF>

Bart Spanhove, "Tone production," November 2008 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARNovo8body.PDF>

Mary Halverson Waldo, "Memorize your music," September 2010 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARsept10body.pdf>; "Tone Quality and the Use of Breathing Muscles," November 2010 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARNov10body.pdf>; "Developing a Better Self-Awareness of Sound," March 2012 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARmar12body.pdf>

David Coffin, "Bellows for Smooth Breath," Winter 2012 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARwinter12body.pdf>

Anne Timberlake, "Just Do It: The Nike Myth," Spring 2013 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARspring13body.pdf>; "Practice Makes Permanent," Summer 2013 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/>

[ARsum13body.pdf](#); “Mirror, Mirror on the Wall: Monitored Practice,” Spring 2014 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARspring14body.pdf>; “Visualize a Recorder: Mental Practice,” Summer 2014 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARsum14body.pdf>

Beverly Lomer and Anne Timberlake, “Learn to Love the Metronome,” Fall 2017 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARfall17body.pdf>

PERFORMANCE PRACTICE/MUSIC (more advanced)

Beverly Lomer, “Sing we and play it: An Overview of the Madrigal for Recorder Players,” Fall 2018 *AR*, https://americanrecorder.org/docs/AR_Fall18_body.pdf

Carolyn Peskin, *Q&A Department*, “Renaissance recorder fingering,” March 2009 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARmar09body.pdf>

Barbara Prescott, “Reading Original Notation: It should be on your Bucket List,” Summer 2015 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARsum15body.pdf>

Thiemo Wind, “Variation Technique: Jacob van Eyck as a homo ludens,” January 2012 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARjan12body.pdf>

GENERAL HISTORY OF THE RECORDER/ EARLY MUSIC/AMERICAN RECORDER SOCIETY

Martha Bixler, *The ARS and Me*, https://americanrecorder.org/the_ars_and_mea_memoir_mar.php (also excerpts in the *March 2007 AR* and *May 2007 AR*)

Adrian Brown and David Lasocki, “Renaissance Recorder Makers,” January 2006 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARjano6body.pdf>

Geoffrey Burgess, “Why Recorders?,” Fall 2014 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARFall14body.pdf> (excerpt from *Well-Tempered Woodwinds*, review in the Summer 2016 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARsum16body.pdf>)

David Lasocki, “Renaissance Recorder Players,” (with music including *Tandernaken*), March 2004 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARmar04body.PDF>; “Researching the Recorder in the Middle Ages” (list of his other publications elsewhere in this issue), January 2011 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARjan11body.pdf>; “What We Have Learned about the History of the Recorder in the Last 50 Years,” Winter 2012 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARwinter12body.pdf>

Bob Marvin, “Thoughts about Judging Recorders,” *Response Department*, January 2005 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARjan05body.pdf>, part II, “A Short, Personal and Music History of Recorders,” *Department of Amplification*, November 2005 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARNovo5body.pdf>

Frederic Palmer, “A Brief History of the Recorder Orchestra,” Summer 2013 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARsum13body.pdf>

Anthony Rowland-Jones, “The ‘Invention’ of the Recorder, and Considering when a Recorder is not a Recorder,” *Department of Amplification* (with a list of Rowland-Jones’s publications), Spring 2018 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARspring18body.pdf>

Susan E. Thompson, from “Friedrich von Huene celebrates 70,” originally in the January 1999 *AR*, excerpt for his 80th birthday, May 2009 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARmay09body.pdf>

Frances Feldon, “Portrait of a Recorder Player for all Seasons: LaNoue Davenport (1922-99); Ken Wollitz and Marcia Blue,” excerpt from a 1989 interview with LaNoue Davenport, November 2009 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARNovo9body.pdf>

MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS (for beginners & others)

Short e-newsletters on topics of interest to players at many levels: https://americanrecorder.org/ars_nova_e_mag_archive.php

Letitia Berlin, “Stop, play and listen,” *President’s Message*, September 2008 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARsepo8body.pdf>

Frances Blaker, “Living La Vida Musica: Stories of How Learning the Recorder can teach us Much More than Music,” September 2006 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARsepo6body.PDF> (and follow-up in *Department of Amplification*, January 2007 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARjano7body.PDF>)

Rebecca Hutchinson, “Playing for Keeps: Alzheimer’s can’t rob musician of her talent,” Winter 2014 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/Winter14body.pdf>

Léonie Jenkins, MD, “Avoiding Aches & Pains,” reprinted in March 2009 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARmar09body.pdf>

William F. Long, Ph.D., O.D., “Recorder with Glasses Obligato,” updated for January 2009 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARJan09body.pdf>

Jody Miller, “Remembering how we all started,” *Education Department*, May 2004 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARmay04body.pdf>

Michael J. Murphy, Ph.D., “Aerobic Fitness and Recorder Playing,” November 2010 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARNov10body.pdf>; “Microbes and Music: Assessing Risk for ‘Bagpipe Lung’ in Early Wind Musicians,” Winter 2016 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARwinter16body.pdf>

Thomas Prescott, “The Recorder Windway Demystified,” Summer 2016 *AR*, <https://americanrecorder.org/docs/ARsum16body.pdf>

