

"The Process"

Here's how we at the Bluecoats put music to the drill for the first time.

- Set 1 - 5 reps. 1st time counting, then singing, then air and valve, then playing in place, then playing on the move
- Set 2 - repeat the same 5 ways
- Set 1 and 2 - repeat the same 5 ways again

Do the same for the following: set 3, set 2 and 3, set 4, set 3 and 4, set 5, set 4 and 5 etc.

Each set (other than the first and last) is performed 15 total times.

Benefits:

- ✓ small chunks
- ✓ lots of reps
- ✓ reinforces each direction change
- ✓ simple instructions

Other ways to do reps

- 1) bopping (playing the attacks of notes only. Best if playing at a soft dynamic.)
- 2) playing everything at piano and full value (I will include this method at times when the students are playing a lot of loud. Gives them a break from playing at the extreme loud dynamic and also challenges them to play and march with more control.

Please pick and choose which ways work for you. Perfectly acceptable to just do a number of reps counting and then playing. Or you could do only singing and playing. Do not overwhelm your students. If your students have never sang on the move and don't use air and valve normally, don't introduce both ways. Pick one. The whole point of this is to keep it simple so that the student can as easily as possible begin the process. Remember when first learning, the thing they need the most is reps. You do not want to waste time with lengthy explanations.