

## Good Piping Looks Easy because It *Is* Easy!

### 1. **Static ease:**

- Hold chanter *firmly* but not tight
- *Light touch* method
- Keep fingers *straight* but not stiff
- Straight, light thumbs position

### 2. **Dynamic ease:**

- Don't move Fingers *too far away* from Chanter
- Melody notes: 1 1/2 - 2 finger diameters
- Grace notes: 1/2 - 1 finger diameter
- Fingers pivot at palm joint *only*

### 3. **Musical ease:**

- Do all crossings *without noise*
- *Clarity* before speed
- Don't point the tune to death
- Play *nice and open* on the Practice Chanter

### 4. **Practical ease:**

- Regularly
- Slowly
- Often

## The Absolute Rule of Fingering and Learning

„Any bit of music or embellishment must be **learned** completely at a given speed.“

**Learned** means:

### 1. **By memory with total, utter **perfection****

no mistakes whatsoever

### 2. **Completely under **control****

- a. no motions occurring automatically
- b. being able to make motions correctly at any speed below current speed
- c. being able to determine exact timing of the finger motions involved
- d. each finger moves under its own power, without assistance from finger, palm, body

### 3. **With an easy **comfort** of grip and finger motions**

- a. fingers are basically relaxed in up or down in motion
- b. fingers do not cramp or hurt during or after playing

### 4. **With complete **recovery** upon finishing**

fingers and hands should end up as comfortable and relaxed as in the beginning

### 5. **With required technique/basics mastered **before** seeking the proper expression/speed**