

Play for Enjoyment

5-10 minutes

Conclude your practice session by playing something that you really enjoy. The music can be hard or easy. Try playing by memory! Go online or to a music store to buy music for your instrument. There are many music collections available that include a play-along CD featuring popular songs and movie soundtracks.

Learn by Listening to Yourself while Practicing.

Special care should be taken to listen to yourself at all times. While practicing, you can self-monitor many things.

Tone Quality Is it beautiful and full or rough and pinched?

Intonation Are you playing in tune? Check your pitch with a tuning machine.

Technique	Articulation	Are you playing proper accents?
	Rhythm	Are your syncopations tidy?
	Dynamics	Are you playing the correct volume?
	Phrasing	Are you paying attention to slurs?
	Tempo	Are you keeping a steady speed?
	Precision	Are you doing everything right?
	Facility	Are you in control concerning coordination?
Attacks &	Releases	Are your notes starting and ending cleanly?

Extended Practice

Be sure to pace yourself if you want to practice over 30 minutes in one session or practice more than once on a single day. Take one or two minute breaks between hard exercises or pieces. As you increase your practice time, your stamina and endurance will naturally increase and you will need fewer breaks to keep from becoming tired. Try recording yourself during your practice session. Play back what you have recorded and listen for ways to improve the next time you play a particular exercise or piece.