

Why *Masterit*™?

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December 31, 2014

Revised: 4/20/2015

If you are a **Student**, a **Parent**, or a **Teacher**,

Have you ever felt like the following?

If you are a Student:

I am discouraged and frustrated. Why can't I play better? I always play much better at home than I do during my lessons. I don't know how to practice. Practicing is boring. I don't like to practice. I don't feel like I am making any progress. Do I get better if I practice hours and hours? I wonder if I'm not talented.

If you are a Parent:

I am frustrated. Is my child really learning something? I don't think he/she practices efficiently. I would like to help my child, but I don't know how. I am not musically inclined. I am paying a lot of money for lessons, but is my child progressing? I feel like I am wasting my money.

If you are a Teacher:

I am frustrated with my students. Why are my students not getting it? I have been repeating the same thing for so many weeks. I don't think they practice at all. I don't understand it. I feel like I am wasting my time.

And right before you are to perform:

I am frustrated and worried. Oh my gosh, tomorrow is the concert! I thought I was practicing a lot, but have I really practiced this music enough? Maybe I should have practiced more. I should have spent more time on this music. I am not sure if I did my best to prepare for this important concert. I don't feel secure.

If any of the above statements describe your feelings, I have created a product called *Masterit*™ that helps to eliminate almost all of the your uneasy feelings and improve your playing if used correctly. Moreover, *Masterit*™ will be able to give you assurance and confidence in your playing.

By the way, for **Teachers**, what is the goal or purpose of lessons? I think the ultimate goal of lessons is to train the student so the student will become his or her own teacher. Through lessons, we try to train the students' ears and brains so they will be able to address and correct problems by themselves by listening to their own playing.

Masterit™ can help to do that!

Now, let's talk about **Practice**.

Q: What is the purpose of practicing?

A: To perform well at the concert, or during lessons.

Q: What do a concert and lesson have in common?

A: As someone once said “Music is the art which is painted on the canvas called time.”

You cannot stop in the middle. Time is steady and cannot stop. Someone also said “Stopping/hesitation during a performance adds beats to the musical flow and that causes anxiety to the listener.”

There are many aspects in performing as they will be explained below.

Q: Why do you practice?

A: To achieve a goal.

Q: What does that mean?

A: To raise your success rate.

Q: Does practice make Perfect?

A: Not necessarily.

Q: What do you mean by that?

A: Practice makes Permanent.

Q: How so?

A: ONLY good practice makes perfect . . . , well, near perfect.

Q: What is practice, then?

A: A collection of correct actions.

Q: What do you mean ?

A: The body is more stupid than the brain.

Q: Can you explain?

A: The brain can understand instantly what to do, but the body needs a lot of repetition to internalize it.

Q: How many times is A LOT?

A: Many many times.

Q: How can I achieve it?

A: Start with small steps.

Q: Can you elaborate?

A: 1) Choose a problem area, a few bars or lines.

2) Repeat that segment 10 times using **Masterit**™, moving 1 bead ONLY after each good play.

Q: What is considered a GOOD play?

A: Complying to whatever the set goal is. It can be : *a. intonation, (correct notes, if you are a non string player) b. rhythm, c. bowing, d. articulation, e. phrasing, f. tone, g. posture . . . etc.)* The goal should be simple enough to judge good or bad. ONLY good plays count. When you accumulate 10 good plays, consider that segment **practiced**.

Document your practice by writing 1 √ mark sign for every 10 good plays on the margin of the music. (This √ mark sign method is a mere suggestion, but documentation is VERY important.) You can repeat the same process if you wish or move to some other goal.

Whatever you do, it has to be **steady**. If it is too difficult to do, set the tempo drastically slower and do 10 times at the slower tempo. After completing it, challenge yourself by setting a faster tempo.

Nonetheless, consider it **practiced** only when you have completed it 10 times. Remember that your body needs a lot of repetition, so do the same process the **next day**. For example, on the first day, it might take 20 tries or more to get 10 good plays, but you will find yourself completing 10 good plays with 17 or fewer tries the next day and so forth. After repeating this process for 5 days, you have accumulated 50 successful plays. You will realize that the section which once was a problem, now feels much easier to play.

Q: Why do I need to use **Masterit**™ ?

- A: 1) Free from remembering how many times you correctly repeated it. “Did I just complete seven times or am I starting the seventh time?”
- 2) Visually able to monitor the achievement. (You can see a tangible amount of practice with the beads volume. If you did 7 good plays, you need just 3 more. You can do it!)
- 3) Free from worry. “How much did I practice? I should have practiced more.” . . . etc.
- 4) You can be confident that you have done a specific section *X* number of times. 1 √ mark represents 10 good plays, so if you **practice** 10 times, you will see 10 √ marks on your music and that means you actually repeated that segment 100 times correctly. **Seeing many √ marks will give you a certain amount of confidence.**
- 5) Reusable. Just move the beads over to the other side.
- 6) You can challenge yourself by using it in different ways. Challenge yourself to achieve 10 consecutive correct plays; otherwise, the beads go back to the beginning, for example.
- 7) It is a nice looking object that lures curiosity from your friends.
- 8) You can organize your practice session more efficiently.
- 9) You can also use the **Masterit**™ for non-musical activities and/or subjects. You can be creative.

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