

MY TECHNIQUE TOOL KIT¹

Technique Builders, Hazel Cobb

Cobb takes an attractive motive one to four measures in length and repeats it on each white key C to C. Some are pure finger exercises, but most imply wrist and arm involvement. While these exercises are actually fun (and beneficial) simply to play through, used in a deeper way they build co-ordination, good sound, and facility.

Czerny-Germer: Selected Piano Studies, vol. 1

Because Germer chose the most interesting of Czerny's early level studies, students enjoy working on them. Little by little the studies nudge students into a high comfort level with the whole panoply of Classical period patterns.

Technical Variants on Hanon's Exercises for Piano, Orville Lindquist.

Hanon made fun! Exercises #1-13, each accompanied by a page of interesting rhythmic variants. Students track metronome speeds on each variant. After finishing the book in C, they repeat it in suggested additional keys. The second time around everyone is impressed with how much faster they can play.

The Russian Technical Regimen for the Piano, Alexander Peskanov.

This is Peskanov's codification of the technical regimen he grew up on in Odessa. Step by step this ends up covering the entire range of skills that repertoire requires. All elements are played in groups, just like a piece of music, with the emphasis on relaxation and beauty of sound. My adult students find this an enormous help in conquering stiffness and poor coordination.

And my own practice publications: strategies for solving everyday technical challenges.

All are published by Hal Leonard and available at all music outlets.

Practicing the Piano: How Students, Parents, and Teachers can Make Practicing More Effective

The Parent's Guide to Effective Practicing

The Piano Student's Guide to Effective Practicing

Many of the practice tips in these publications are illustrated in short videos on my Effective Practicing channel at <https://tinyurl.com/https-breth>

¹ This is my portion of a joint article on dexterity at the piano, coming soon in American Music Teacher.