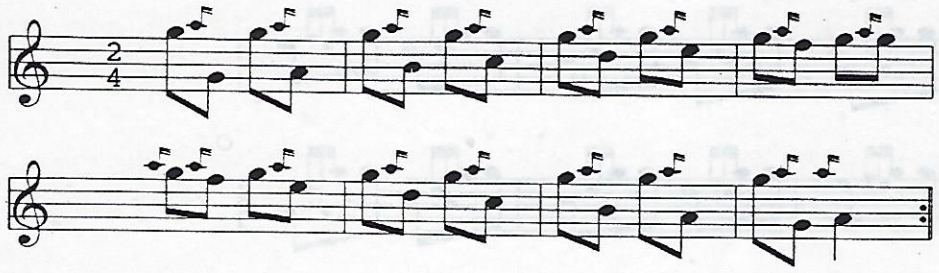
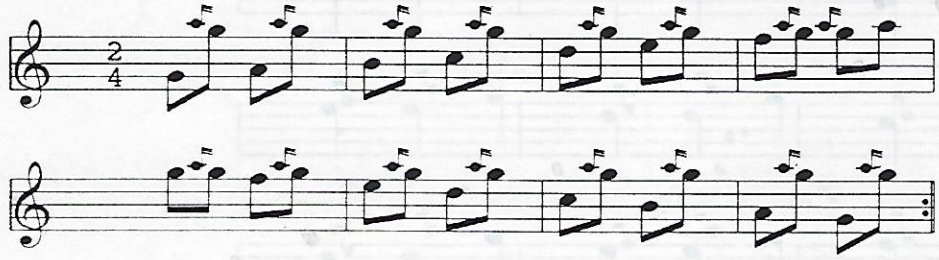
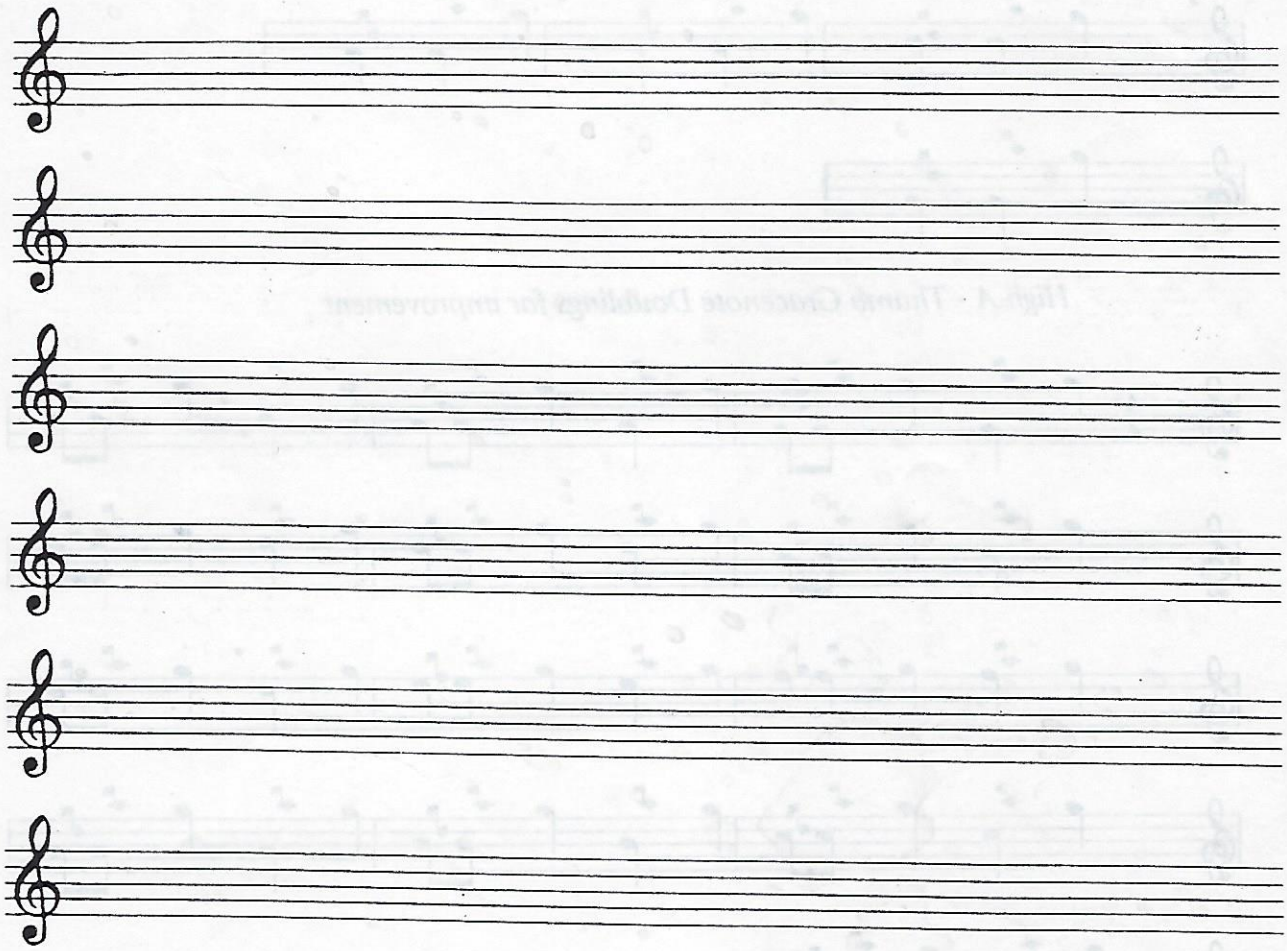
High A - Thumb Gracenotes

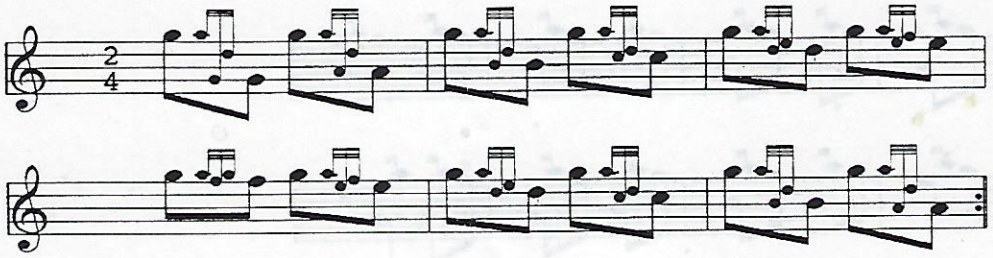


High A - Thumb Gracenotes

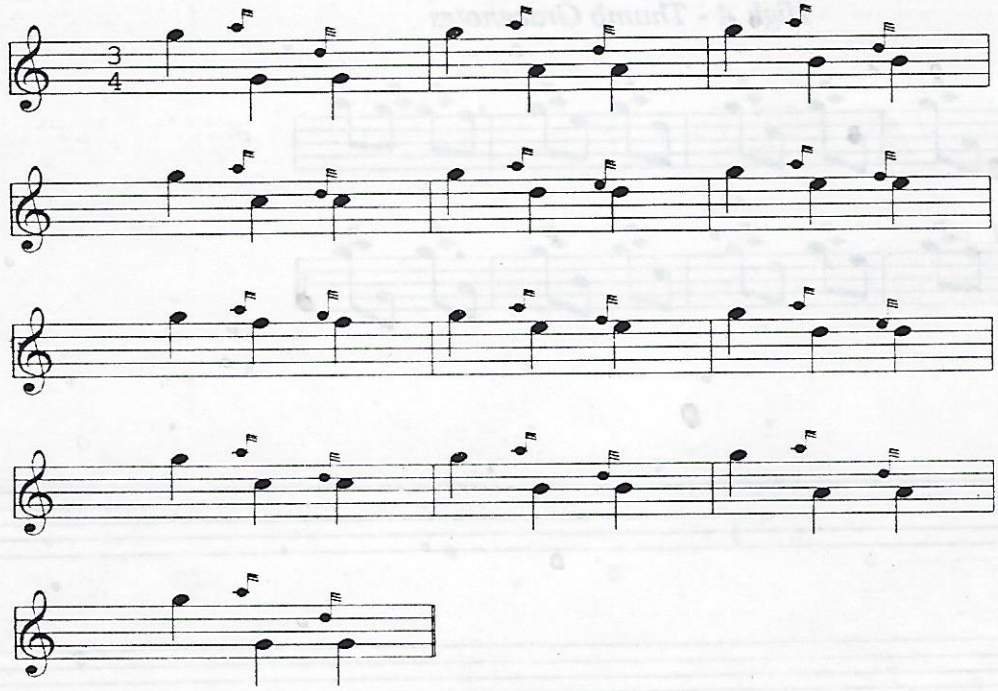




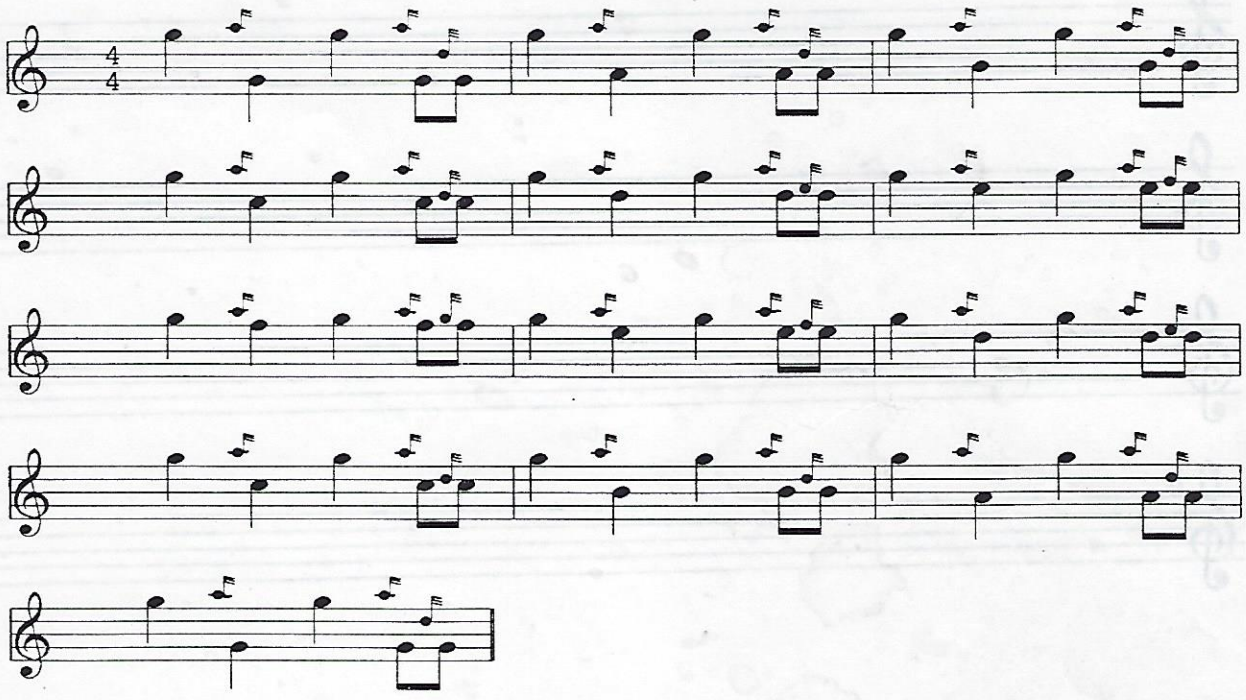
High A - Thumb Gracenote Doublings



High A - Thumb Gracenote Doublings, broken down



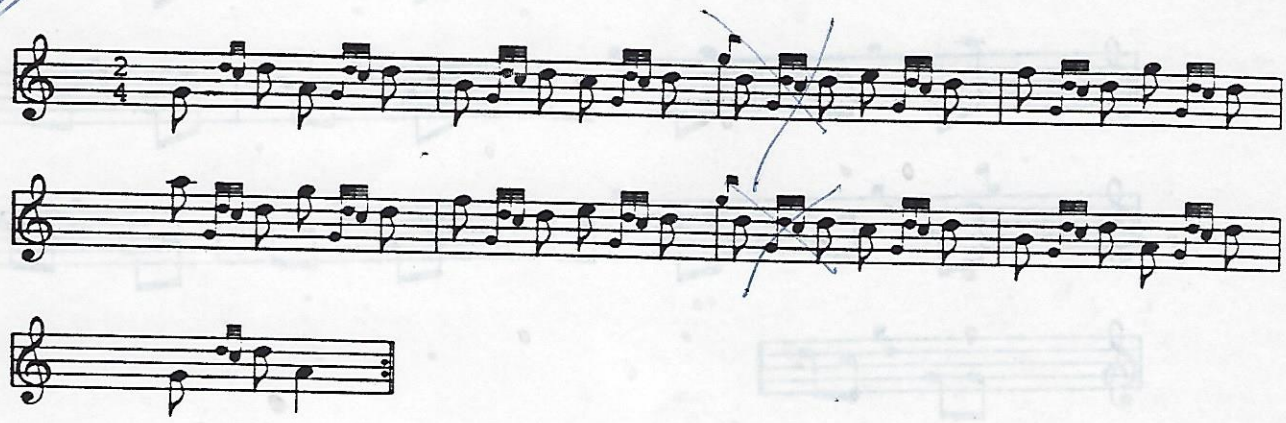
High A - Thumb Gracenote Doublings for improvement



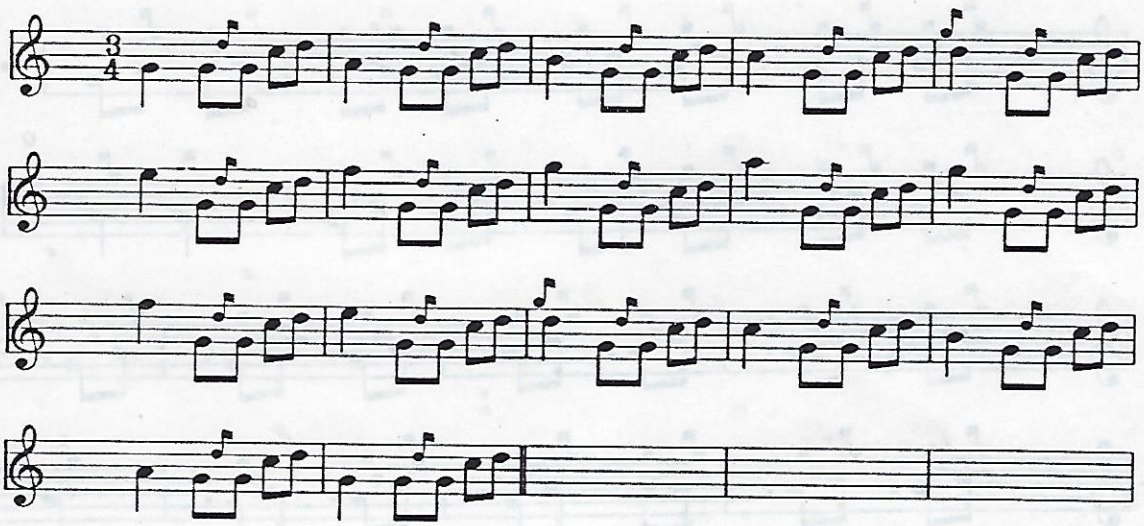
D THROW

The D throws broken down here are both the "heavy style" and the first alternative style found in the College of Piping Tutor Book 1.

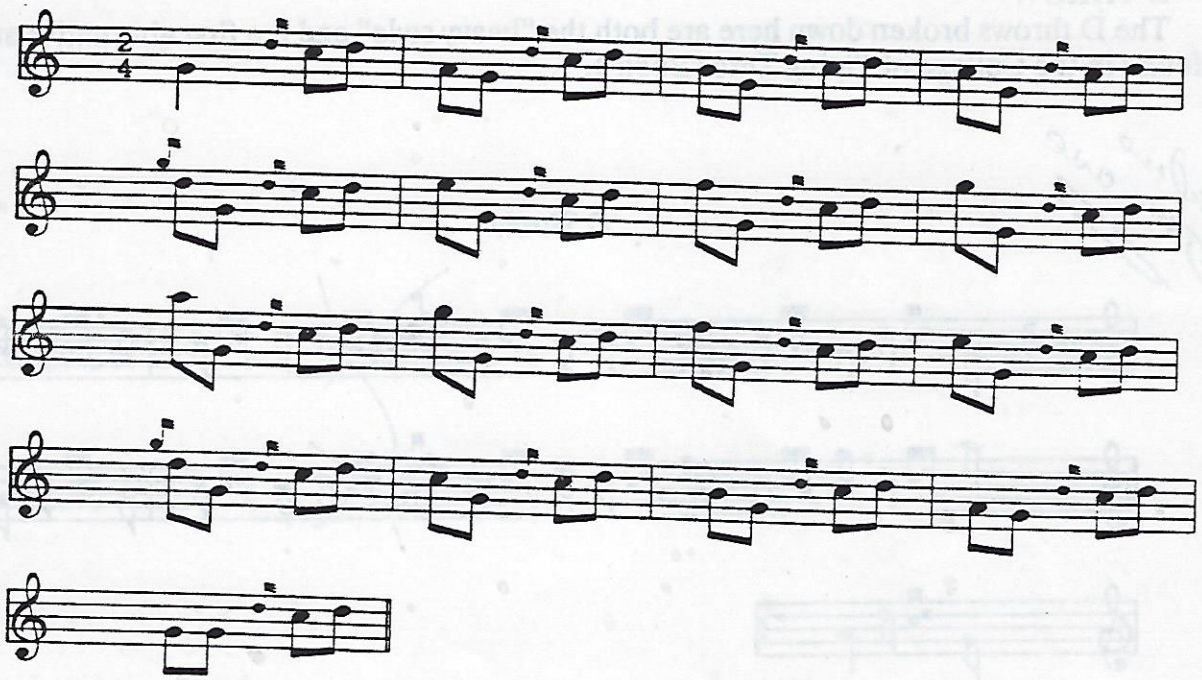
D Throw



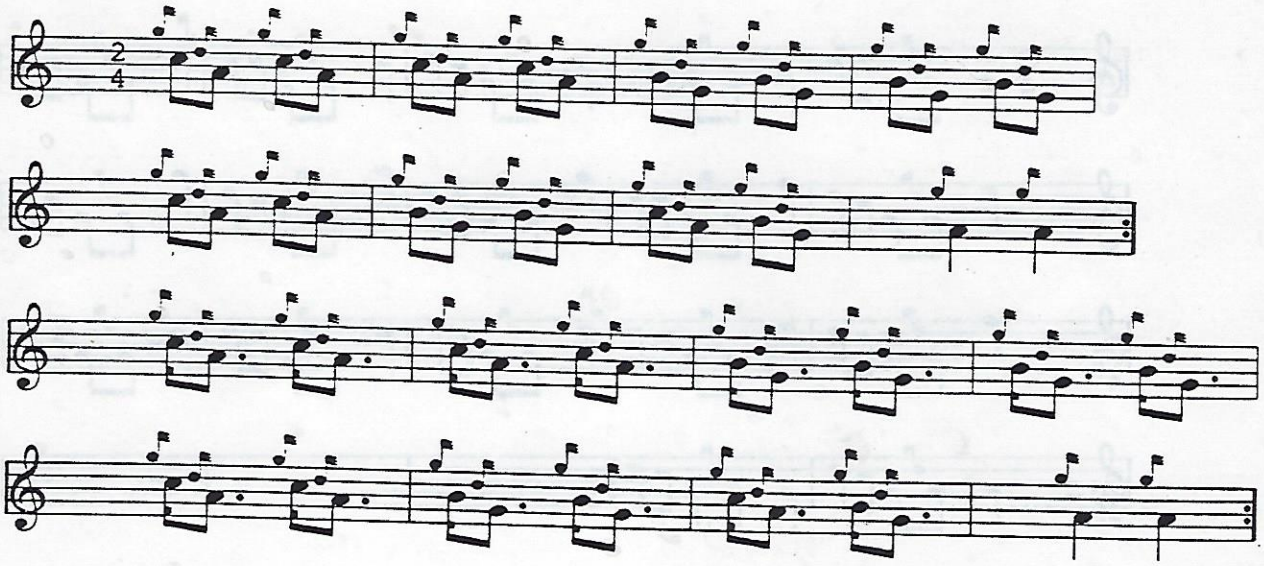
D Throw, broken down - "heavy style"

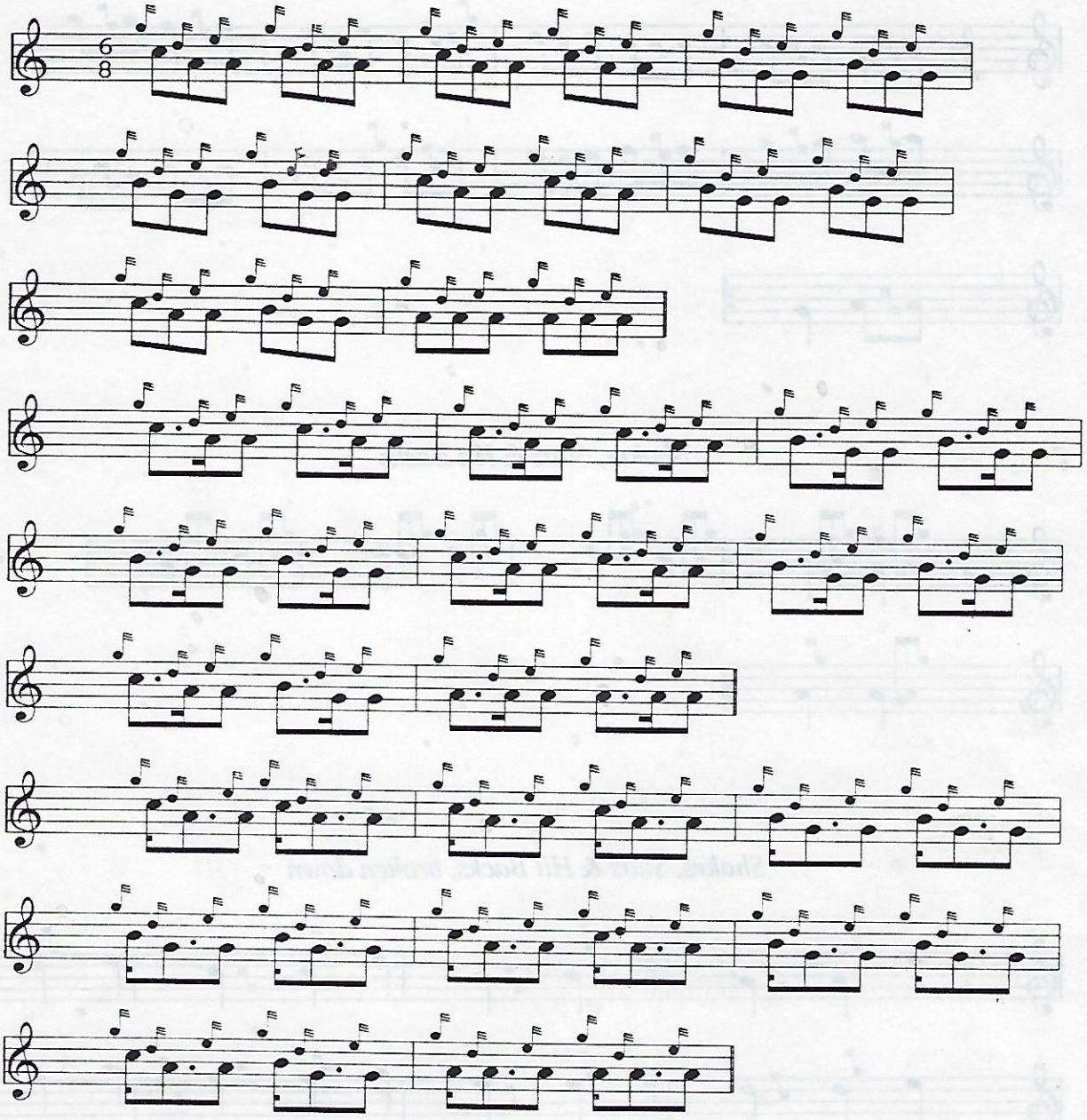


D Throw, broken down - "alternative style"

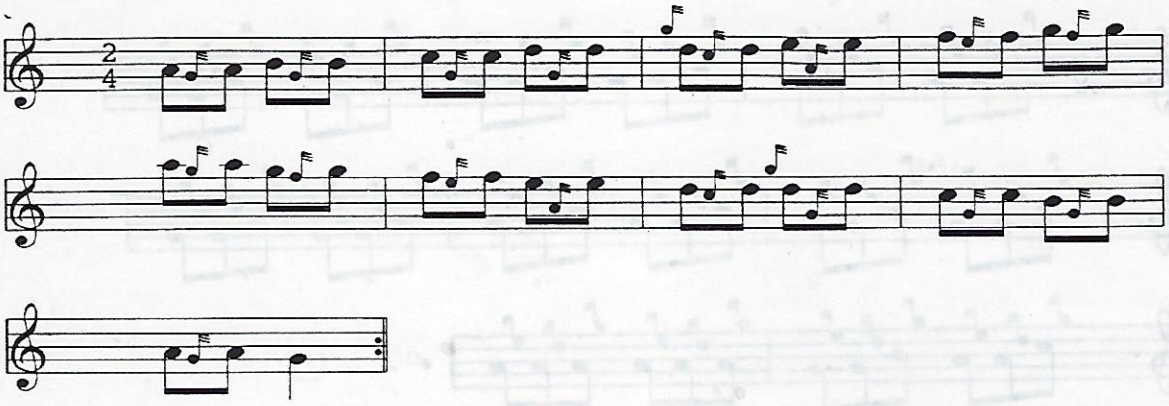


Tachums

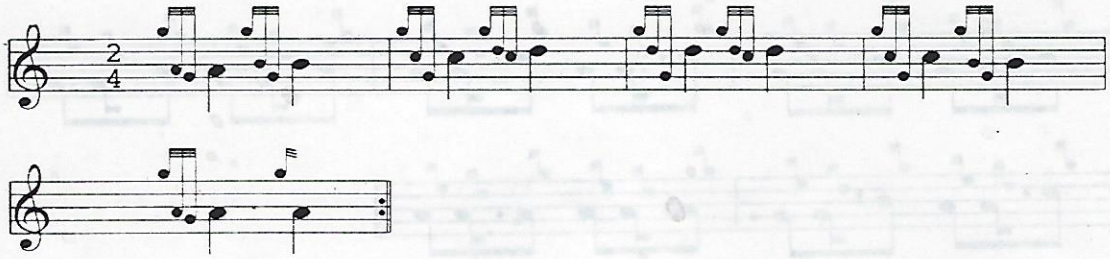




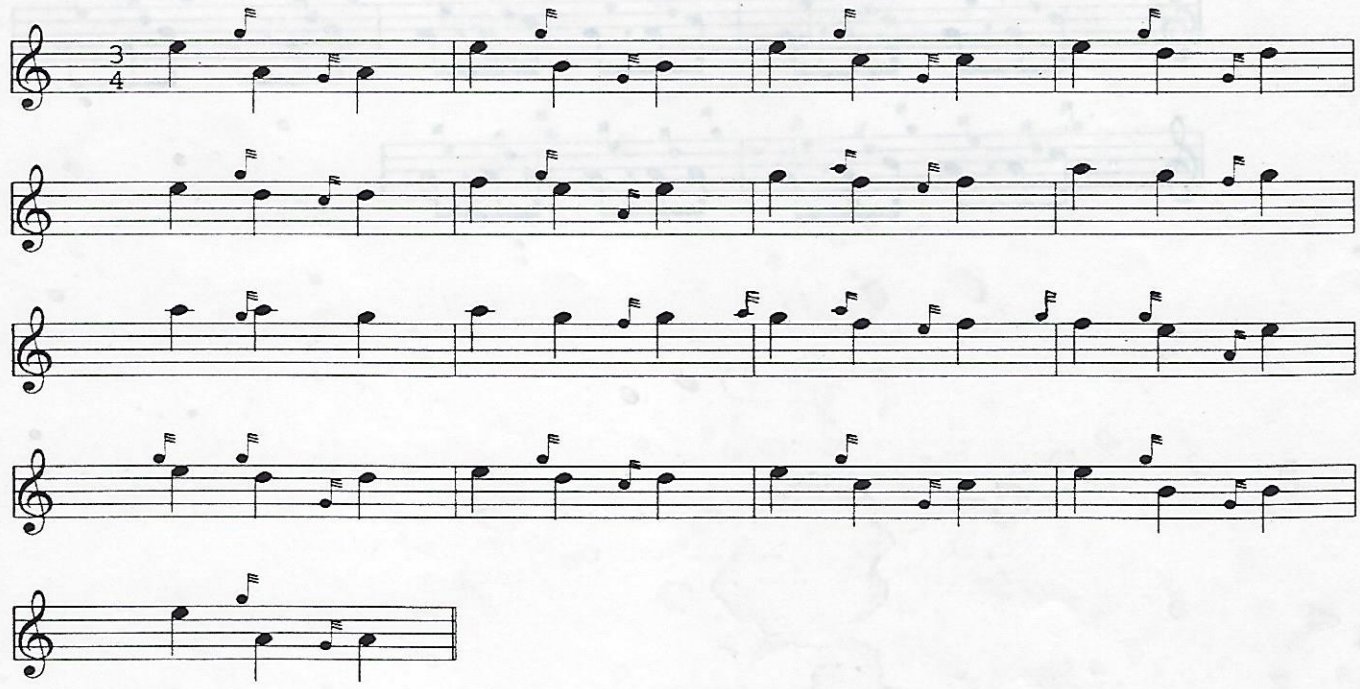
Shakes, Slurs & Hit Backs

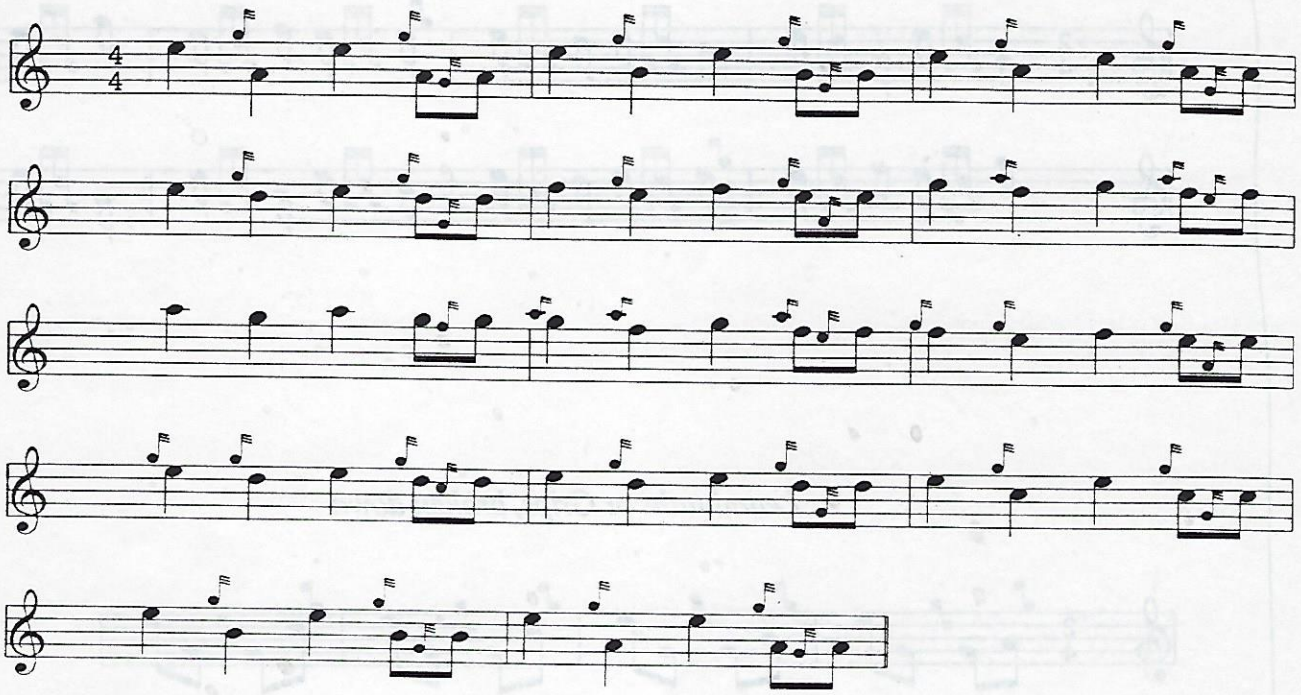


Shakes, Slurs & Hit Backs



Shakes, Slurs & Hit Backs, broken down

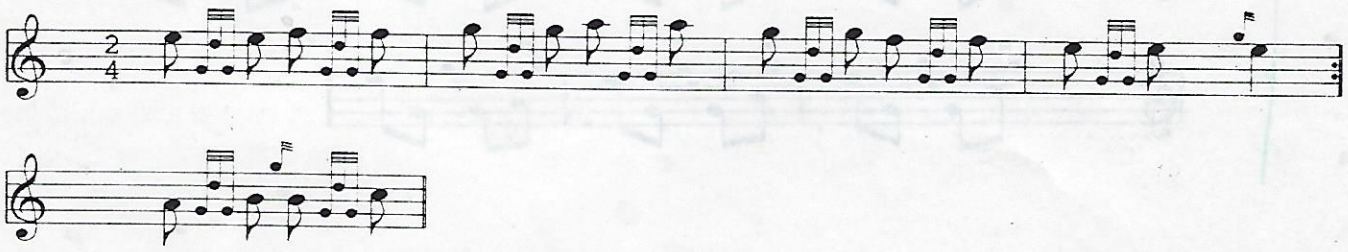




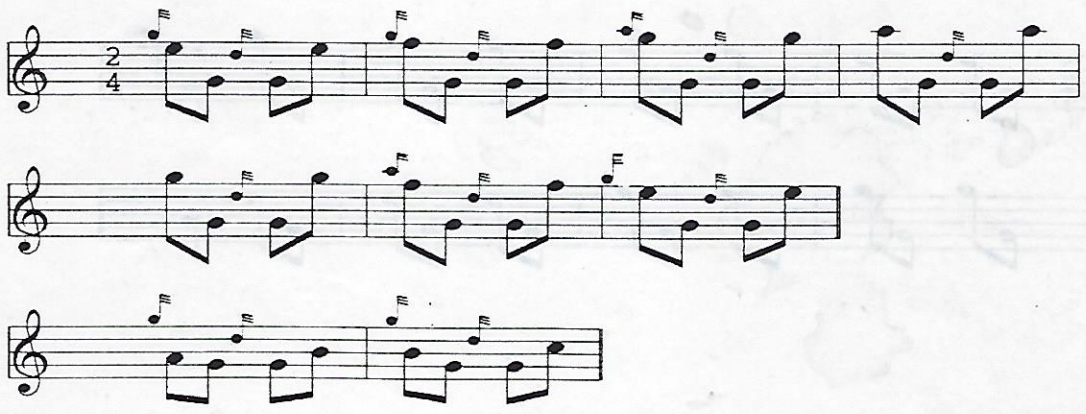
GRIPS

I have tried to cover all the possibilities as they may appear in light music.

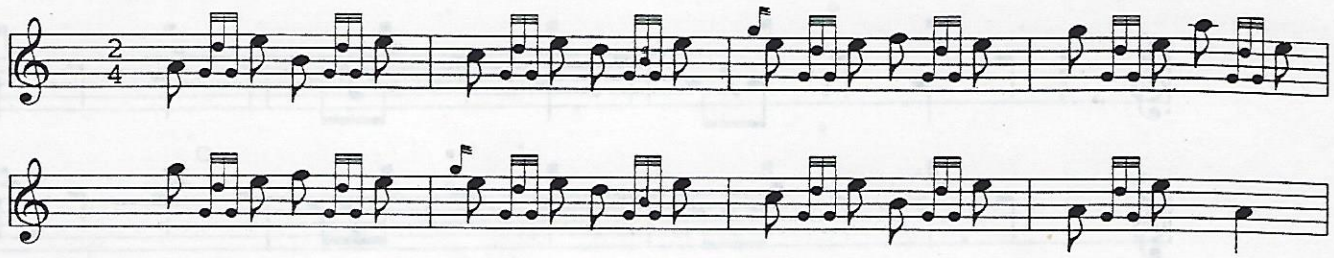
Leumluaths or Grips



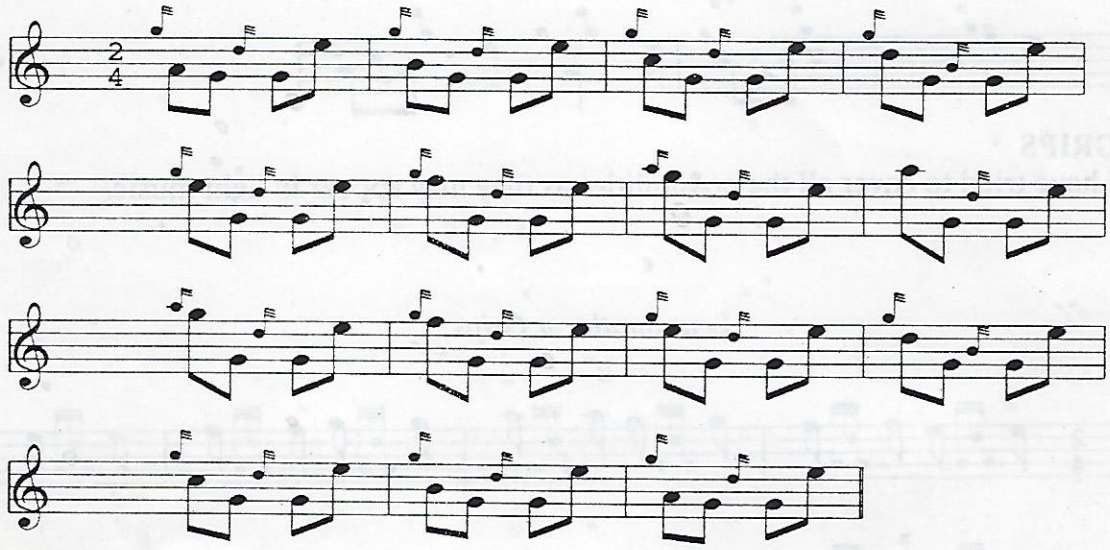
Leumluaths or Grips, broken down



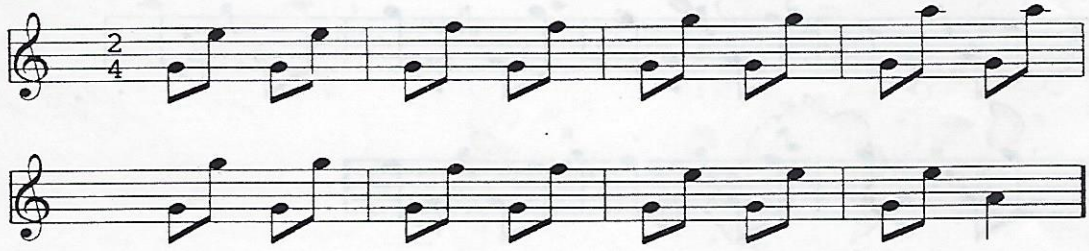
Leumluaths or Grips



Leumluaths or Grips, broken down



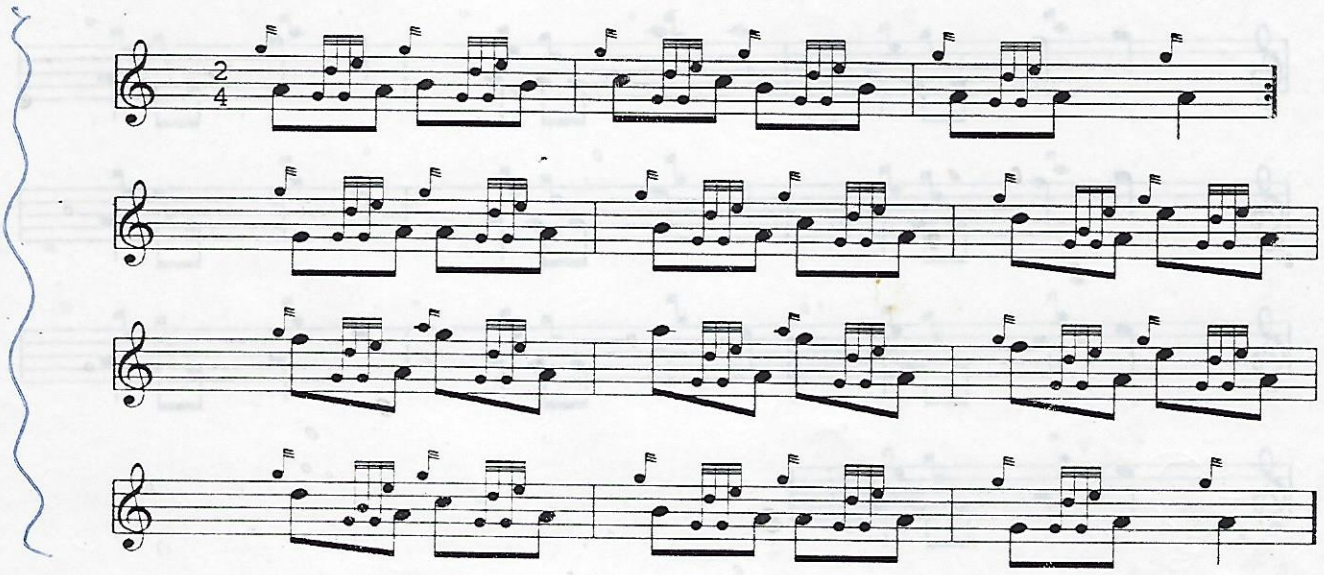
This exercise is to improve the Grip movement from Low G to the Top Hand. Often, the biggest problem with grips is getting these fingers off the chanter together and cleanly.



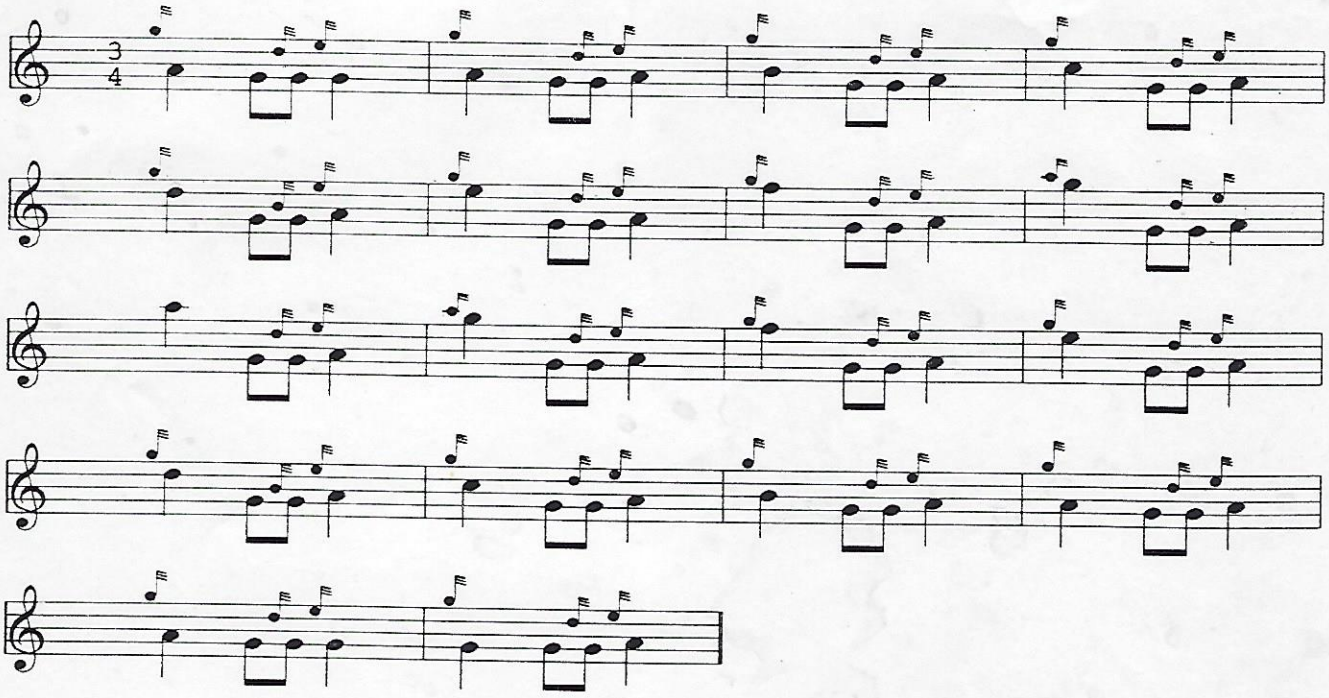
TAORLUATH

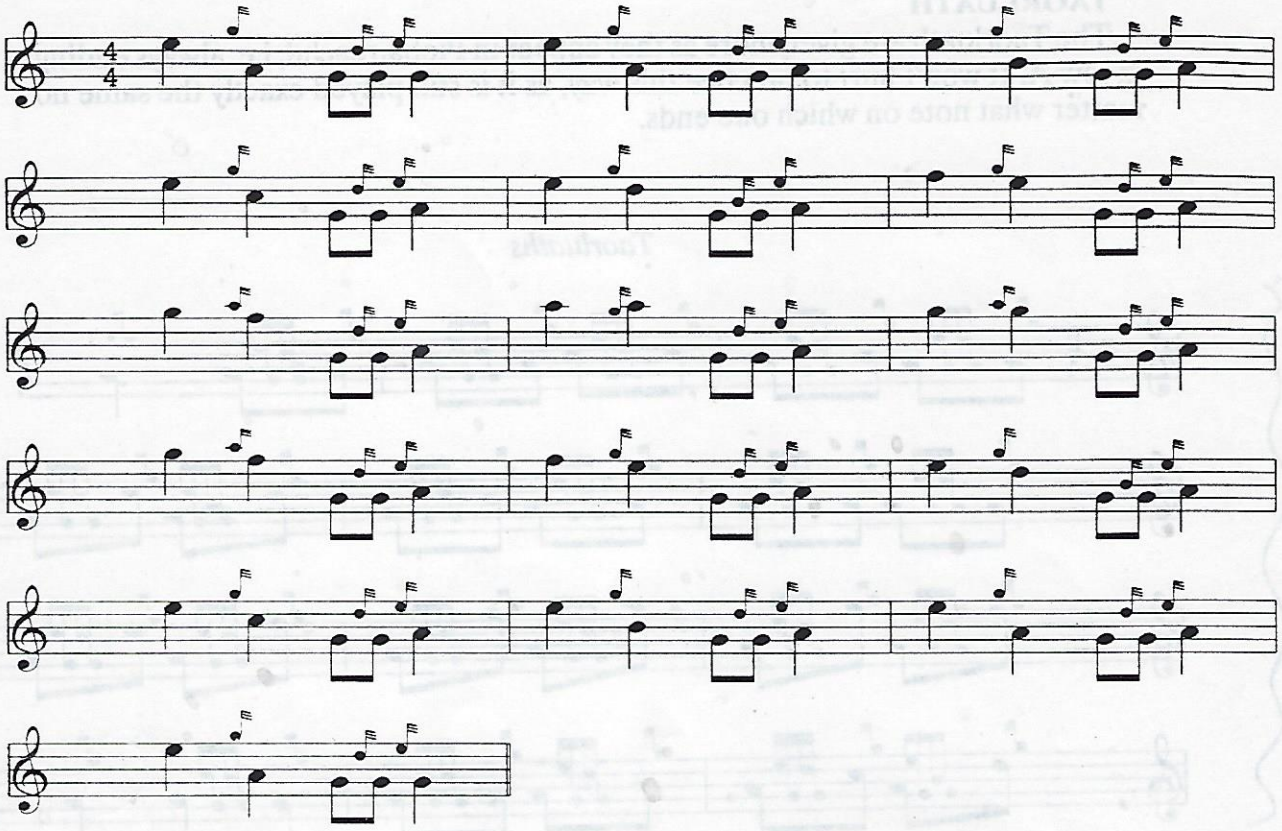
The Taorluath are given more as they appear in Piobaireachd, i.e. always ending in low A. It won't hurt to practice this way, as it is still played exactly the same no matter what note on which one ends.

Taorluaths

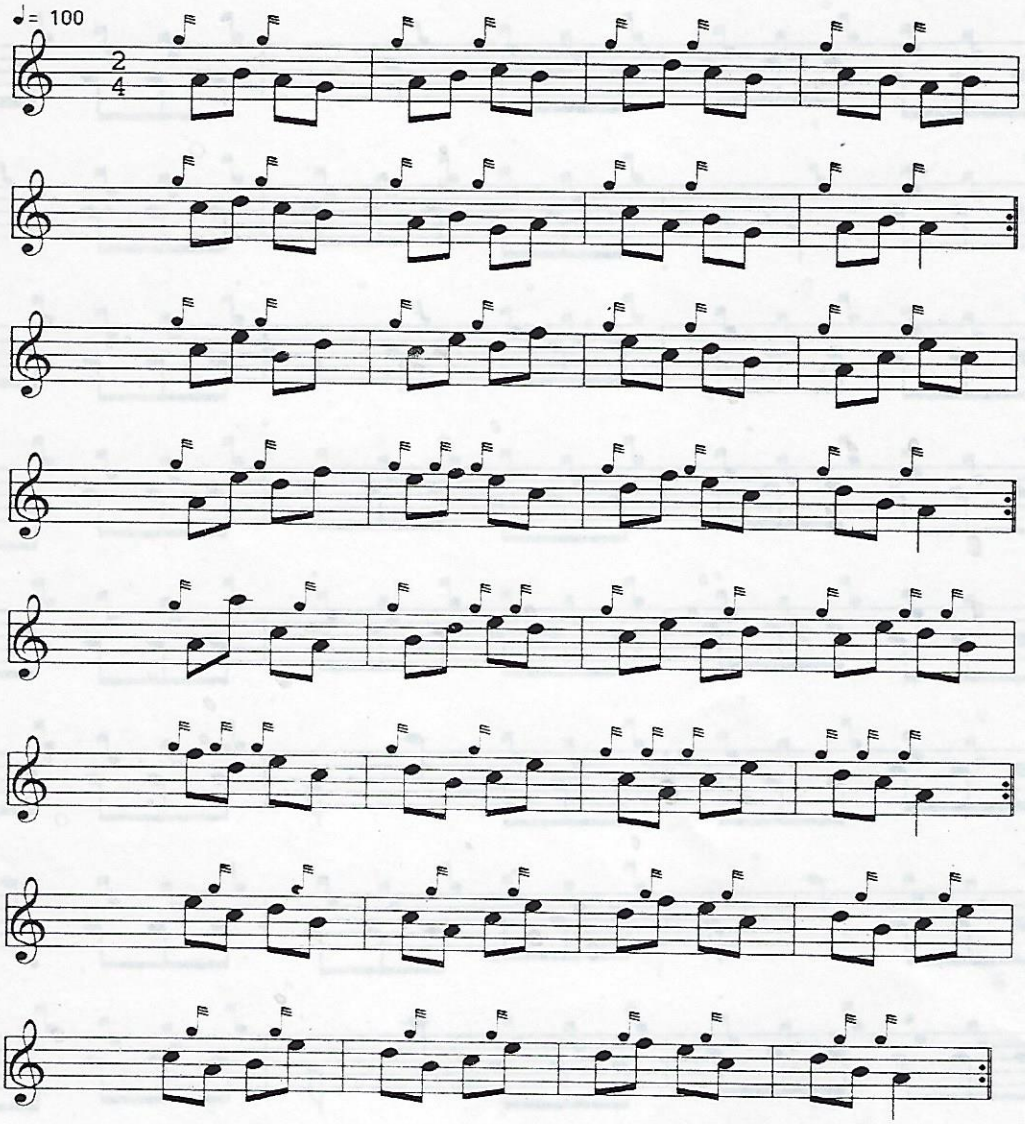


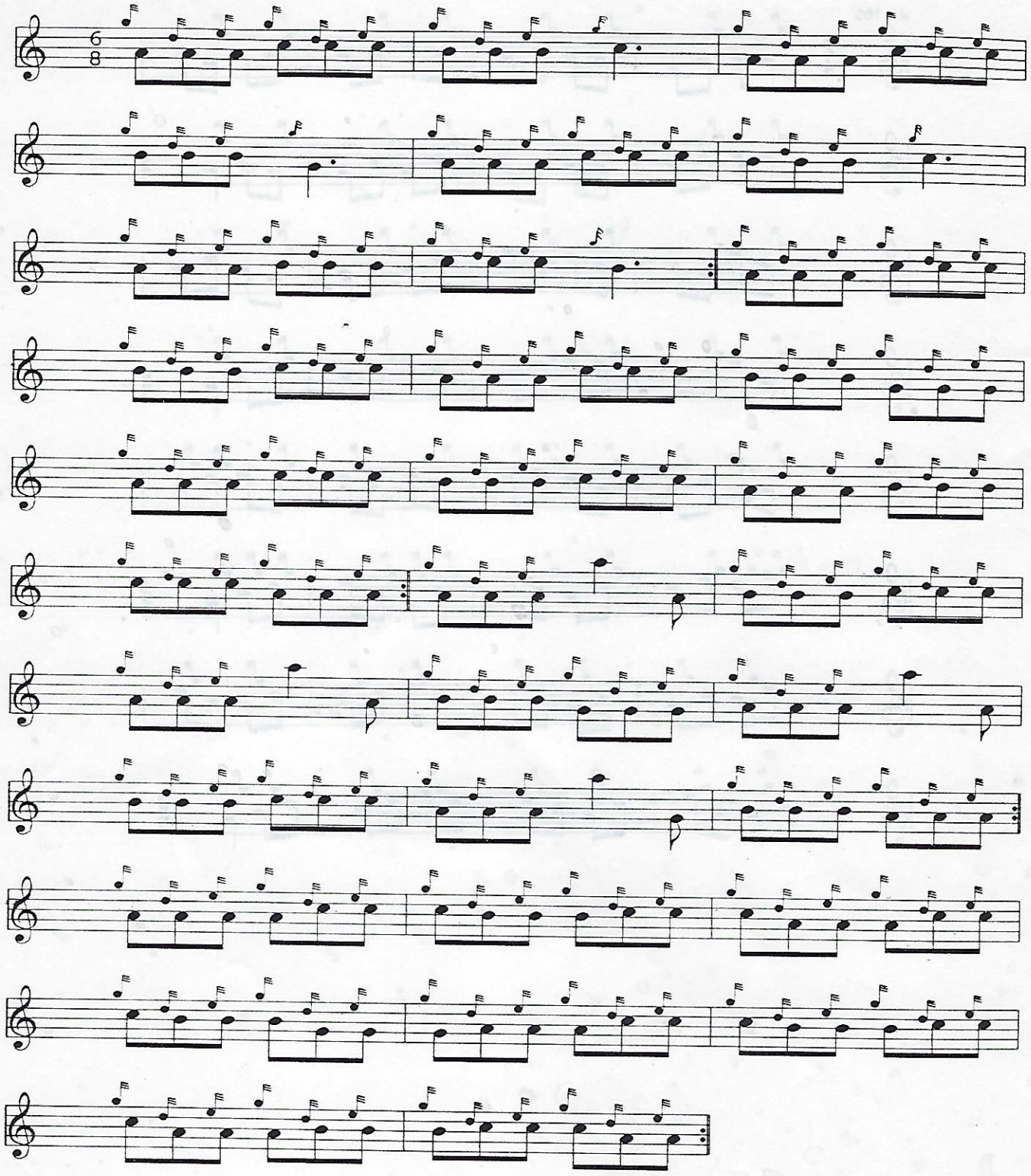
Taorluaths, broken down



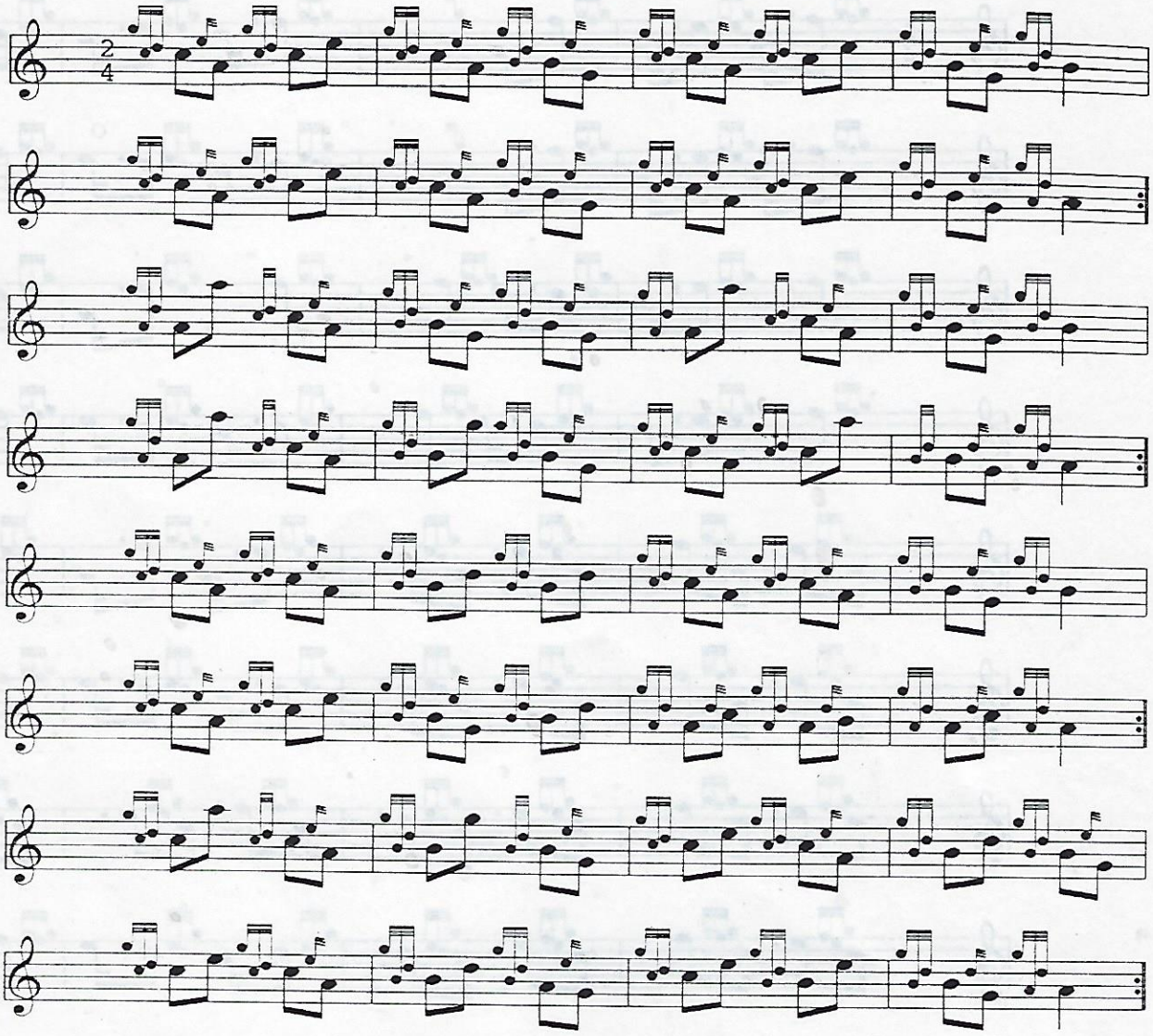


G Gracenote Exercise

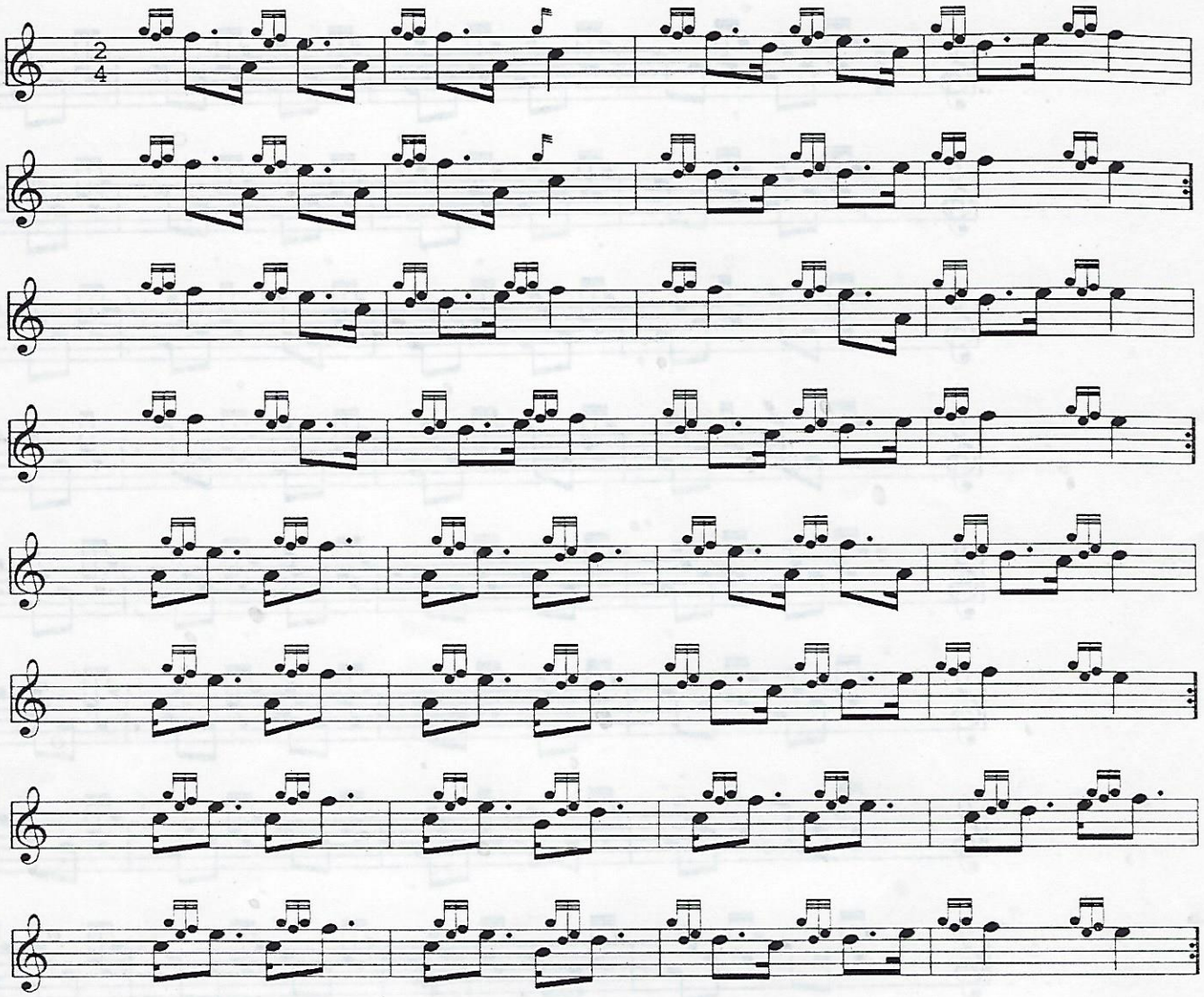




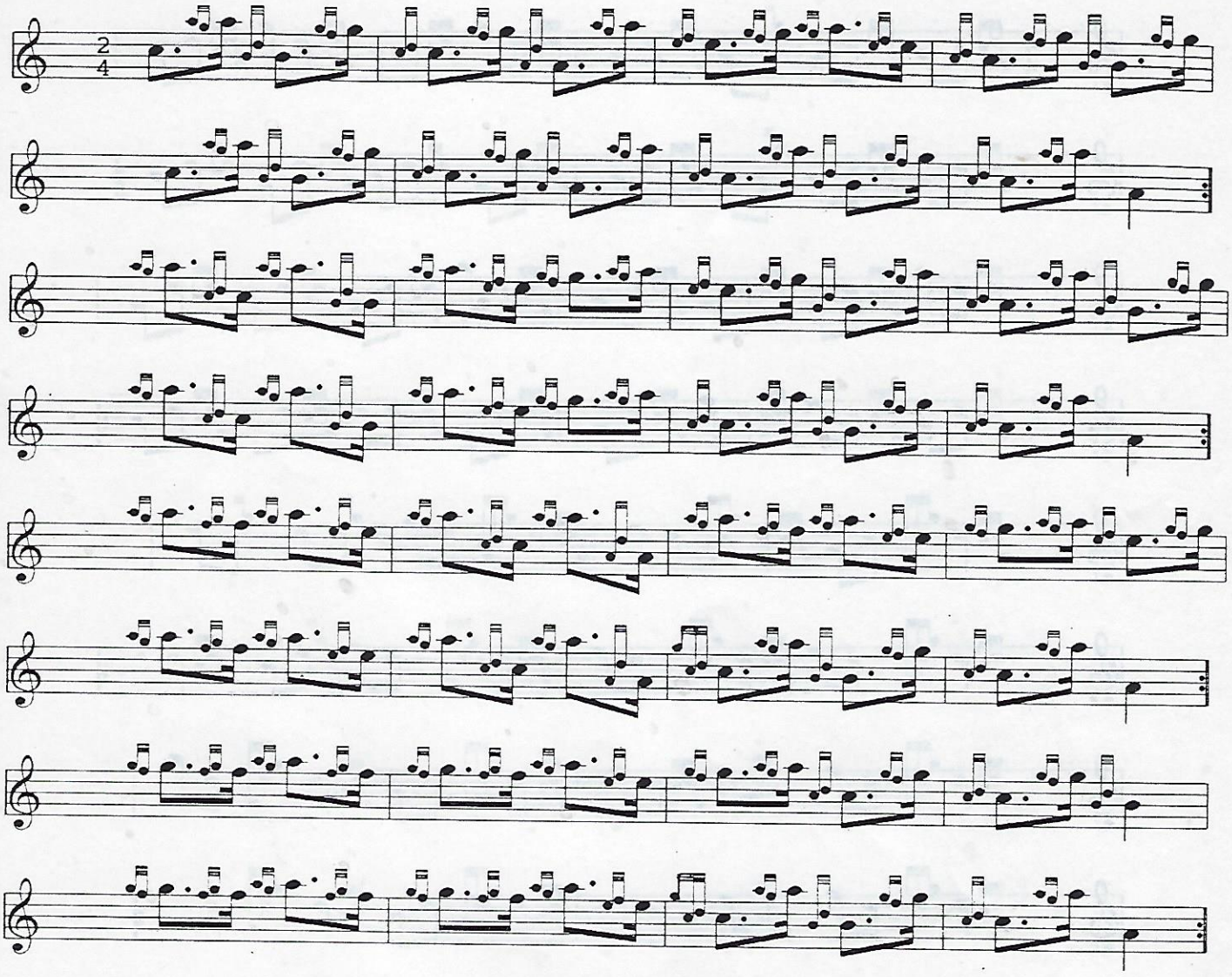
A, B & C Doubling Exercise



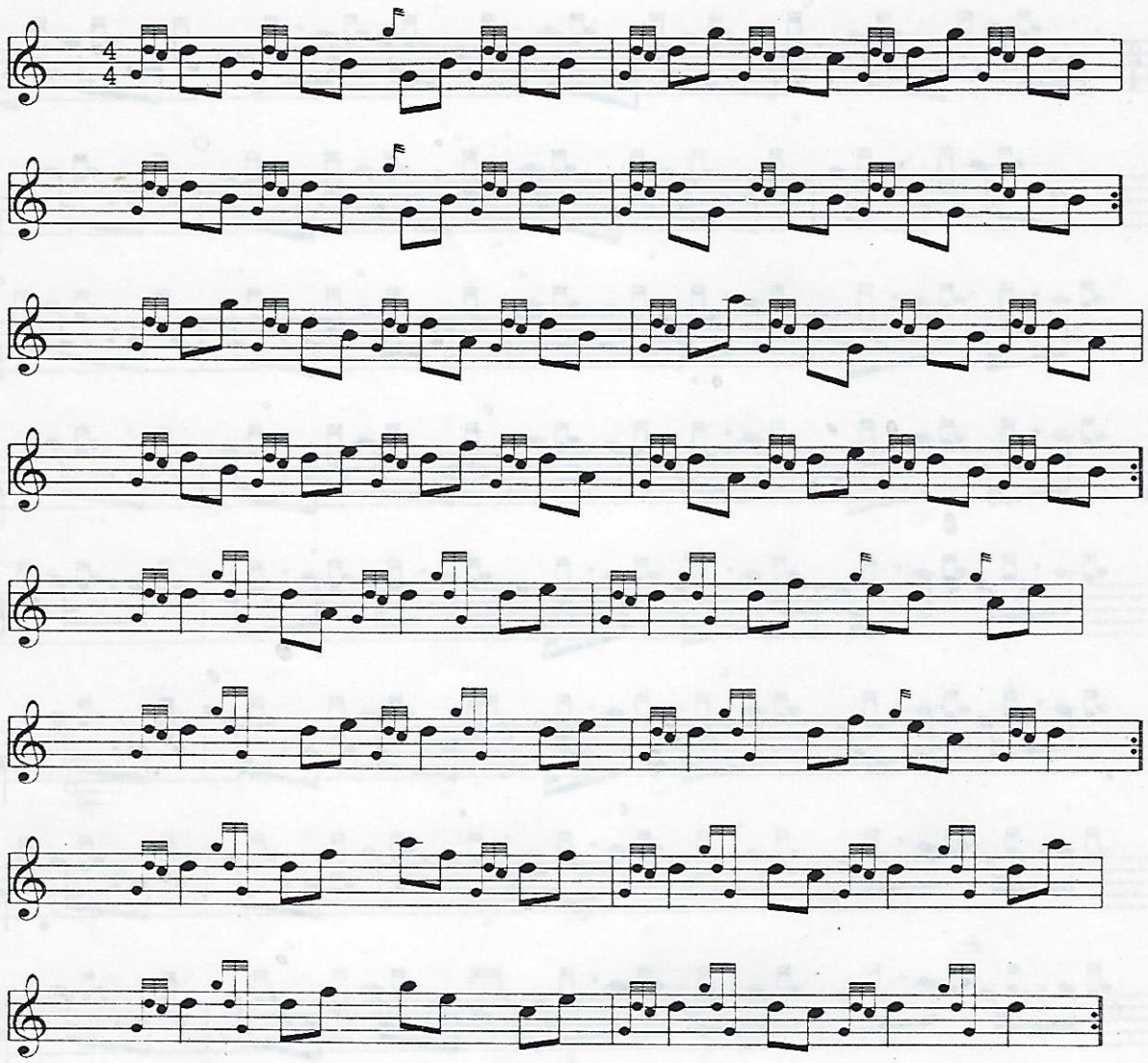
E, F & D Doubling Exercise



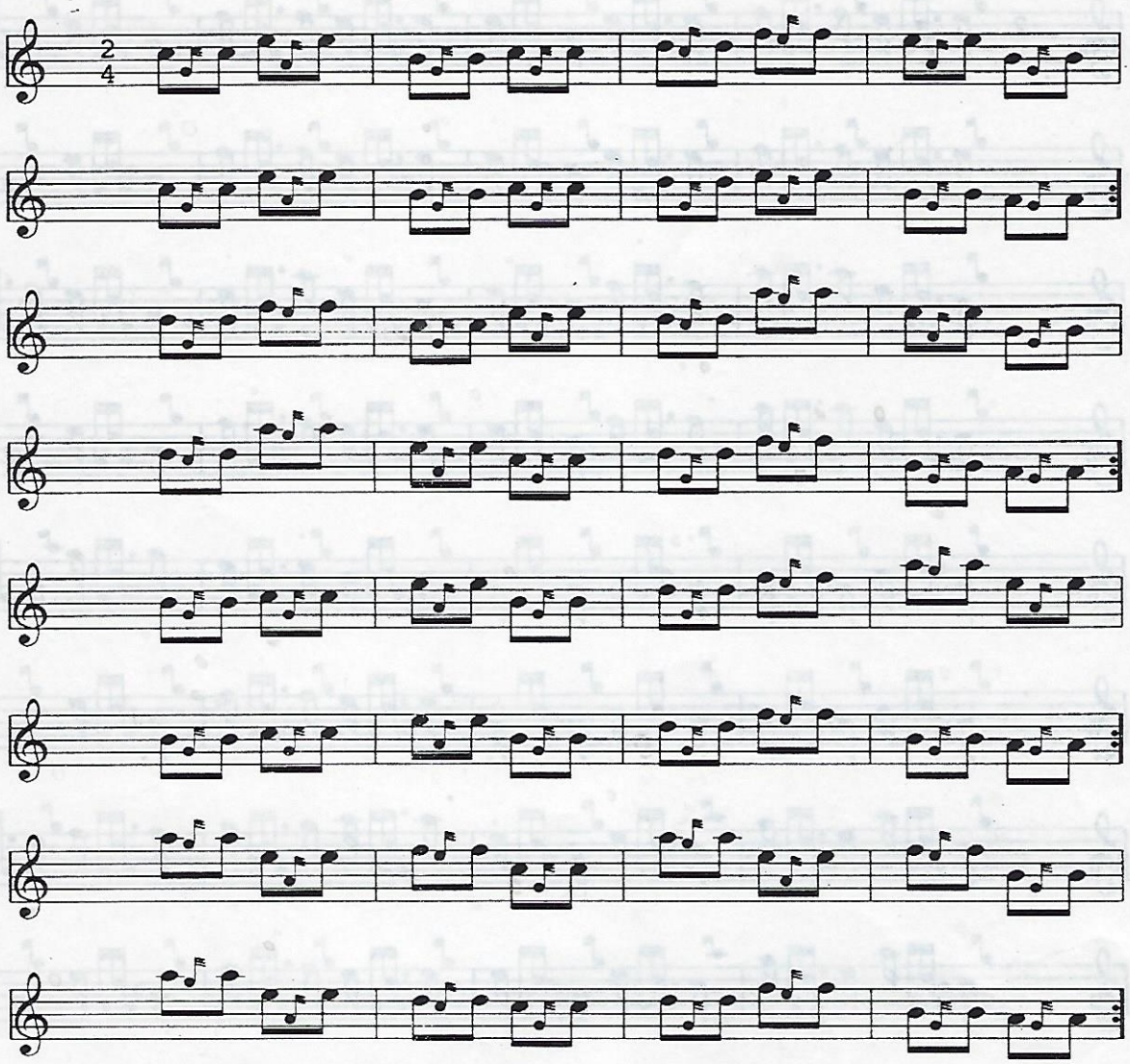
High G, A & Half Doubling Exercise

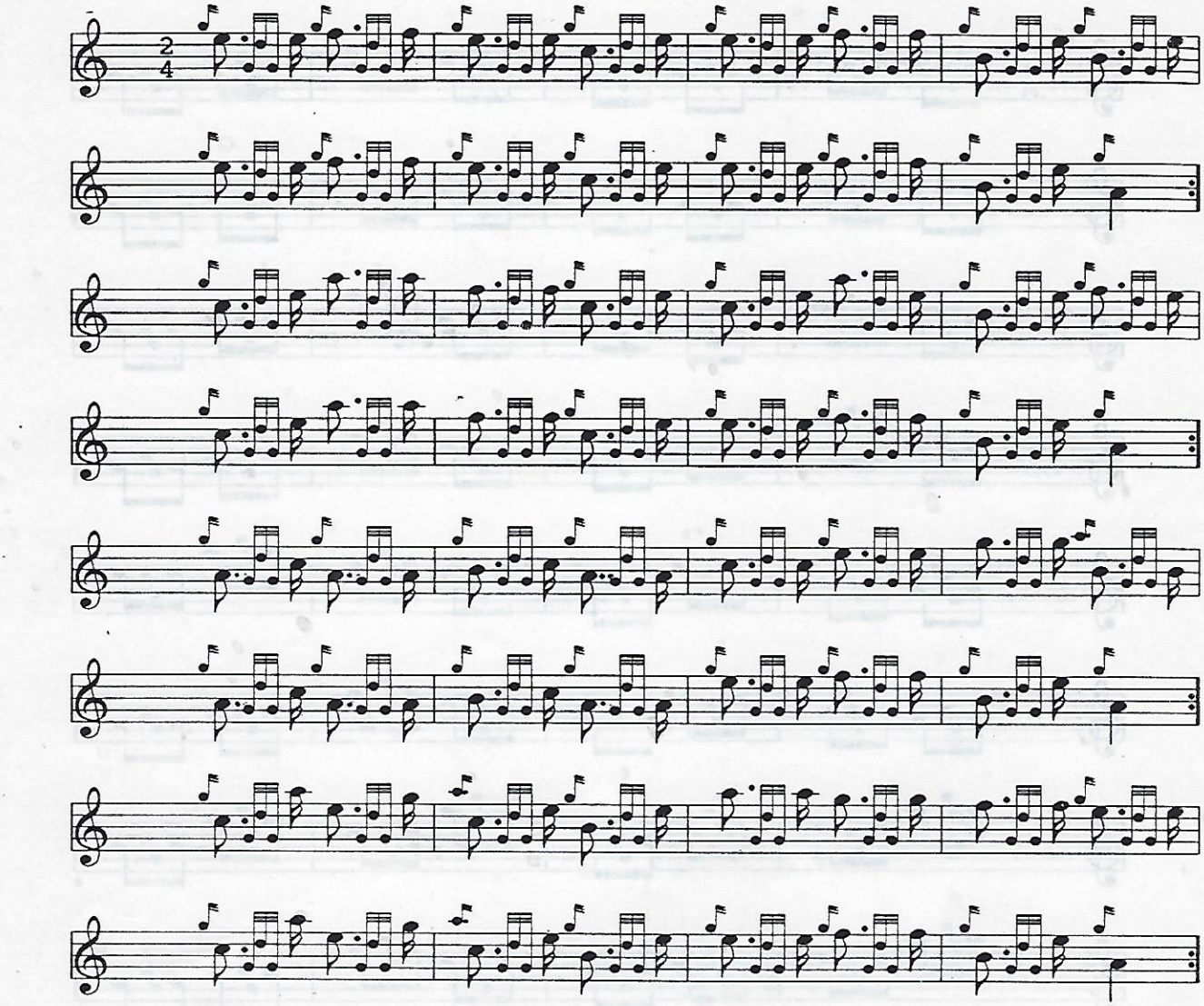


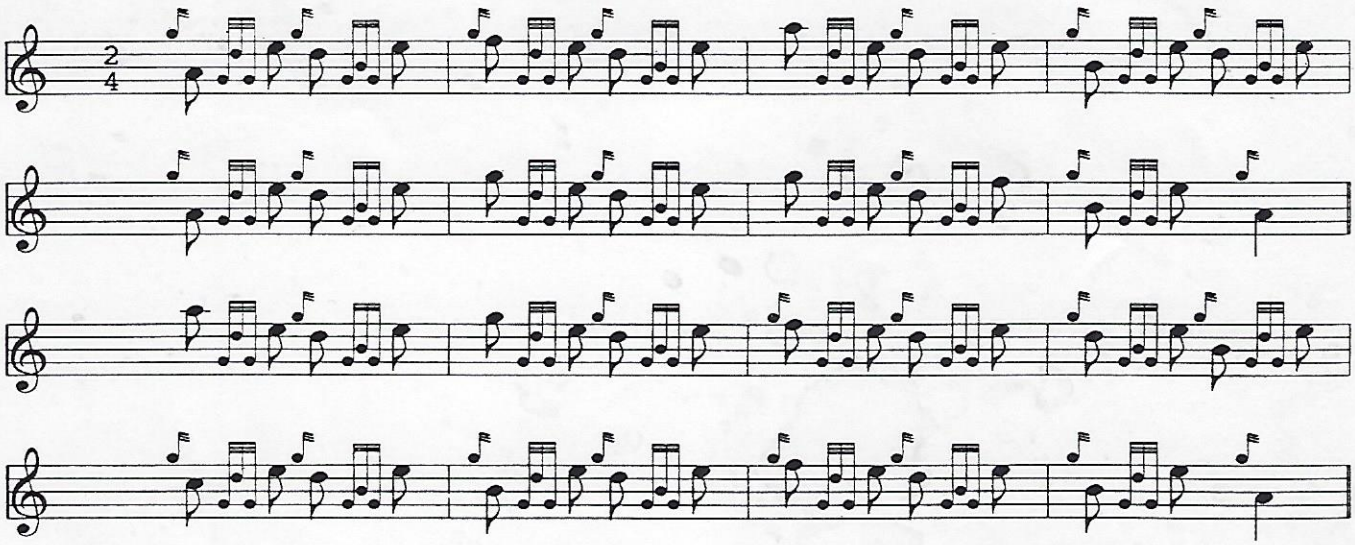
D Throw Exercise

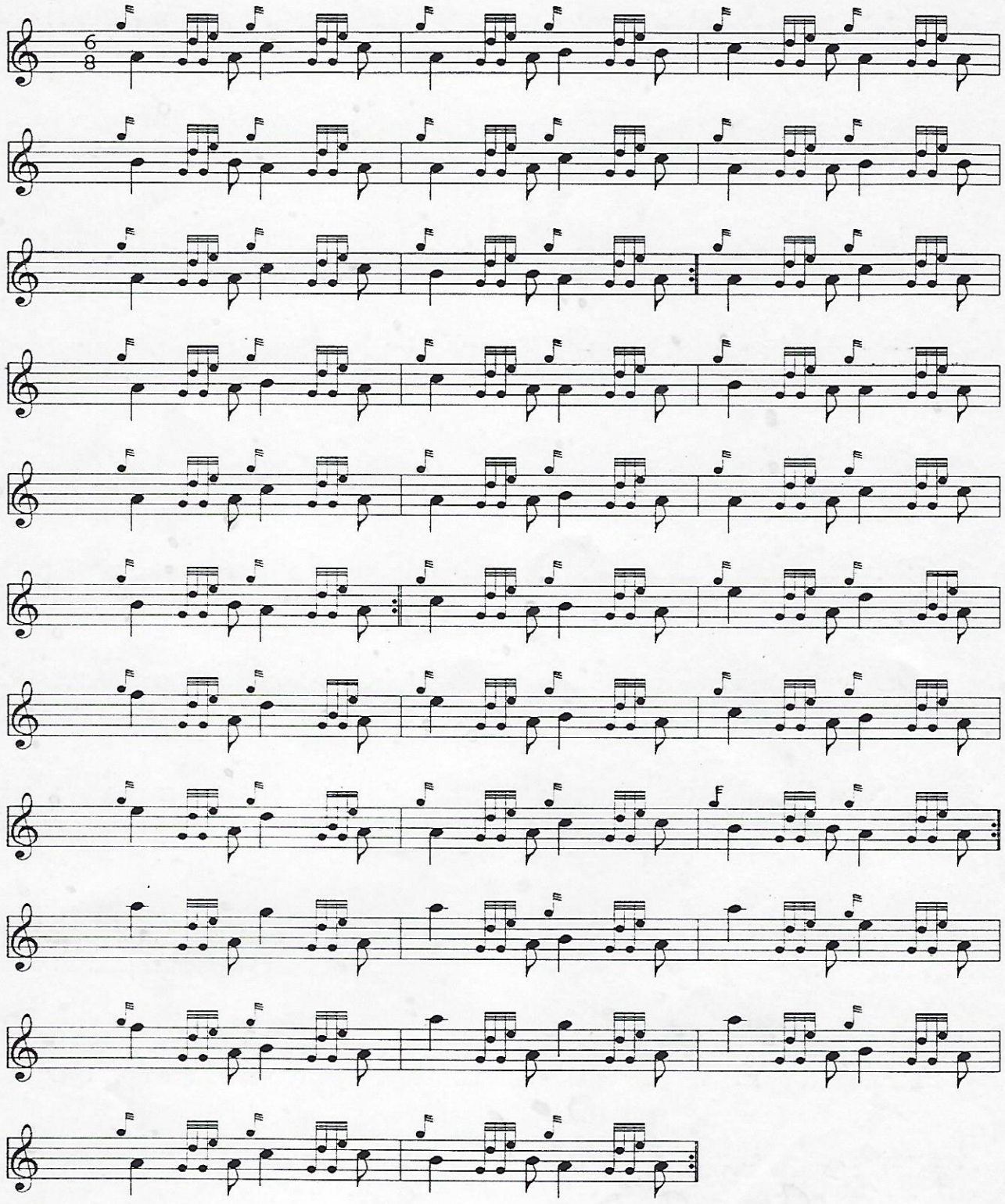


Echo Beat Exercise









Addendum

Some final comments on exercises. I have found numerous variations in Piobaireachd that are useful as exercises, taken out of context. Just to list a few they are:

For Crossovers
Var. I and Doubling *Lament for Viscount of Dundee*

For GDE's
Taorluath and Doubling *Lament for Viscount of Dundee*
Taorlauth and Doubling *Glengarry's March*
Taorlauth *The Little Spree*

For Taorluath
Taorluath Var. *Sir James MacDonald of the Isles Lament*
Taorluath Doubling *Mackintosh's Lament.*
Taorluath *Lament for the Old Sword*
Taorluath Doubling *Black Donald's March*

For Leumluath (Grips)
Leumluath Doubling *The Battle of the Bridge of Perth*
Leumluath Doubling *Carles wi the Breeks*
Leumluath Doubling *Black Donald's March*
Leumluath Doubling *The Glen is Mine.*

Before I bring down the wrath of the piobaireachd players for the previous suggestions, I must make comment.

I am not advocating piobaireachd as simple exercises only. It is a noble and melodic form of music in its own right. The benefits of fingering techniques necessary for piobaireachd most definitely carry over to light music. Practicing the aforementioned can help a piper improve as well as open up the neophyte to the beauties of piobaireachd. So please do not get the wrong idea on my perception of piobaireachd. These variations make practicing much better as there is a melody line to it, rather than just up and down the scales.

About The Author

He has been teaching pipes to bands and individuals for 20 years. He is the coordinator and teacher of piping at the Ohio Scottish Arts School. He is on the Ontario, Midwest U.S. and Southeast U.S. Judges Panels. He also plays for many dancing competitions in the United States and Canada.

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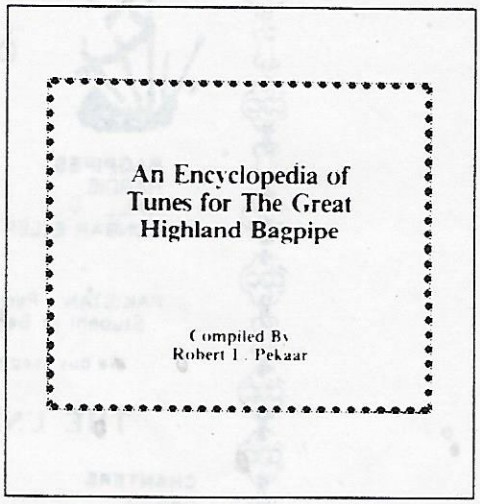

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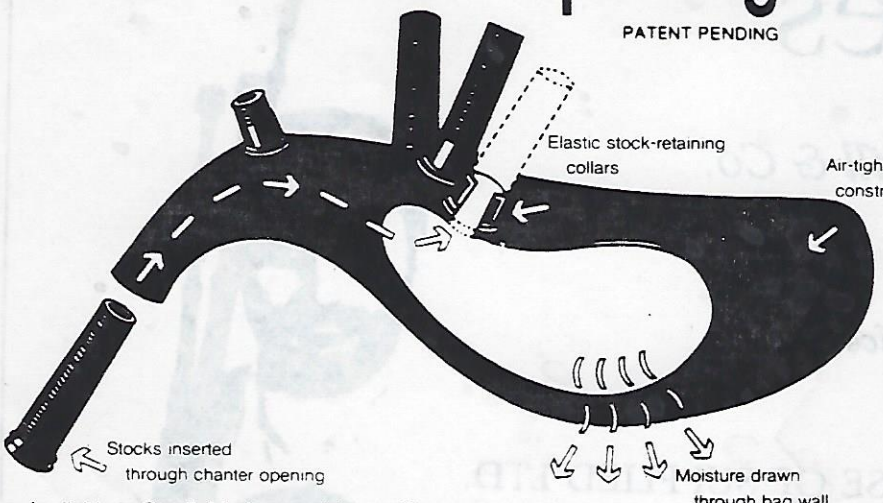

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