



UILLEANN PIPES

Beginner Objectives

- Posture and placement of the bellows and bag, allowing for the chanter to be in a relatively ergonomic position
- Proper grip of the chanter which means keeping the fingers straight while finding the correct joint on the finger with which to cover the tone hole and maintaining tone hole coverage to develop a seal.
- Awareness of the basic functionality of the instrument i.e., making sure that there are no leaks regularly, and making sure that there have been no major changes to the functionality of the reed.
- Each time one sits down to play, it is helpful to notice the tuning of the chanter, so as to maintain the playability of the chanter reed and to avoid bad habits. This will also serve to develop a good ear.
- Once the above is established, playing a 'D' Major Scale starting with the 'Back D' and going down to a 'Bottom D' is a great way to get a feel for what it takes to seal the tone holes as it will be easy to tell if there are any leaks as you go down the scale.
- A 'D' Major Scale going up the scale from the bottom up to the back 'D.'
- A tune such as 'Dawning of the Day' may be attempted at this point.