

Using a Metronome

Music

Five ways to use one that are more useful than clicking on every beat.

Ordered roughly by difficulty.

Start here

Click on every beat

Slow enough to play it perfectly

Raise by 4–5 bpm only when it is clean

Never practise mistakes at speed

Progress to

Click on 2 and 4 only

Click on beat 1 only

Click on the off-beats

One bar on, one bar silent

What it exposes

Rushing after long notes

Slowing in hard passages

Uneven subdivision

Tempo drift across a whole piece

Rule

Speed is a by-product of accuracy

If it falls apart, drop 20 bpm

End every session at a tempo you can play cleanly

Practising a passage ten times slowly and correctly beats fifty times fast and approximately.