

# Feed The Beast

As many of you are headed into a summer break, some of you may have questions as to what to practice for the next 3 months.

If you don't already have a solid plan in place - here I offer up my "go to" practice routine. It is simple to follow, will keep you in top shape and will address all aspects of trumpet playing. I have used this formula every summer (and other weeks off) for the past 10 years and use a variation of this for daily practice during working weeks.

The books I use (you should feel free to copy this or find other books that you enjoy playing out of) are as follows:

1. Clarke Technical Studies for the Cornet
2. Gekker Articulation Studies
3. Gekker Endurance Drills for Performance Skills

4. Snedecor Low Etudes for Trumpet
5. Snedecor Lyrical Etudes for Trumpet
6. Boehme: 24 Melodic Studies in All Tonalities, Op. 20 for Trumpet
7. Bousquet 36 Celebrated Studies for Cornet
8. Brandt 34 Studies for Trumpet
9. Charlier 36 Etudes for Trumpet
10. Smith Top Tones for the Trumpeter

Here's the formula -

Day of the week

Month of the year

Day of the month

**SIMPLE!**

Out of each book, you will play the following numbered etudes corresponding to the day of the week (Mon-Sun = 1-7), month of the year (Jan-Dec = 1-12), and day of the month (1-31).

Beginner/Maintenance Version -  
Play only 1 Etude out of each book  
corresponding to the day of the  
week = 10 total daily etudes

Human Version - Play 2 etudes out  
of each book corresponding to the  
day of the week and the month of  
the year = 20 total daily etudes

Beast Version - Play 3 etudes out of  
each book corresponding to the  
day of the week, month of the year,  
and day of the month = 30 daily  
etudes

Below is a one week plan ". DO NOT  
BE AFRAID TO SCALE THIS PLAN  
TO YOUR CURRENT ABILITIES!  
Those just starting out will want to  
ease into this program.

So - today is **Monday (1), May  
(5), 20th (20)**

The playing day would like this:

1. Clarke #1
2. Gekker Articulation #1, #5, #20

3. Gekker Endurance #1, #5, #20
4. Snedecor Low Etudes #1, #5, #20
5. Snedecor Lyrical Etudes #1, #5, #20
6. Boehme #1, #5, #20
7. Bousquet #1, #5, #20
8. Brandt #1, #5, #20
9. Charlier #1, #5, #20
10. Smith #1, #5, #20

**Tomorrow - Tuesday (2), May (5), 21st (21)**

1. Clarke #2
2. Gekker Articulation #2, #5, #21
3. Gekker Endurance #2, #5, #21
4. Snedecor Low Etudes #2, #5, #21
5. Snedecor Lyrical Etudes #2, #5, #21
6. Boehme #2, #5, #21
7. Bousquet #2, #5, #21
8. Brandt #2, #5, #21
9. Charlier #2, #5, #21
10. Smith #2, #5, #21

**Wednesday (3), May (5), 23rd (23)**

1. Clarke #3
2. Gekker Articulation #3, #5, #23
3. Gekker Endurance #3, #5, #23
4. Snedecor Low Etudes #3, #5, #23
5. Snedecor Lyrical Etudes #3, #5, #23
6. Boehme #3, #5, #23
7. Bousquet #3, #5, #23
8. Brandt #3, #5, #23
9. Charlier #3, #5, #23
10. Smith #3, #5, #23

## **Thursday (4), May (5), 24th (24)**

1. Clarke #4
2. Gekker Articulation #4, #5, #24
3. Gekker Endurance #4, #5, #24
4. Snedecor Low Etudes #4, #5, #24
5. Snedecor Lyrical Etudes #4, #5, #24
6. Boehme #4, #5, #24
7. Bousquet #4, #5, #24
8. Brandt #4, #5, #24
9. Charlier #4, #5, #24

10. Smith #4, #5, #24

## **Friday (5), May (5), 25th (25)**

1. Clarke #5
2. Gekker Articulation #5, #25
3. Gekker Endurance #5, #25
4. Snedecor Low Etudes #5, #25
5. Snedecor Lyrical Etudes #5, #25
6. Boehme #5, #25
7. Bousquet #5, #25
8. Brandt #5, #25
9. Charlier #5, #25
10. Smith #5, #25

## **Saturday (6), May (5), 26th (26)**

1. Clarke #6
2. Gekker Articulation #6, #5, #26
3. Gekker Endurance #6, #5, #26
4. Snedecor Low Etudes #6, #5, #26
5. Snedecor Lyrical Etudes #6, #5, #26
6. Boehme #6, #5, #26
7. Bousquet #6, #5, #26
8. Brandt #6, #5, #26
9. Charlier #6, #5, #26

10. Smith #6, #5, #26

## **Sunday (7), May (5), 27th (27)**

1. Clarke #7
2. Gekker Articulation #7, #5, #27
3. Gekker Endurance #7, #5, #27
4. Snedecor Low Etudes #7, #5, #27
5. Snedecor Lyrical Etudes #7, #5, #27
6. Boehme #7, #5, #27
7. Bousquet #7, #5, #27
8. Brandt #7, #5, #27
9. Charlier #7, #5, #27
10. Smith #7, #5, #27

You will notice there is some overlap of numbers. BE CREATIVE ... or gratefully accept a lighter playing day.

The idea here is that you will see the etudes corresponding with the days of the week (1-7) once a week. The etude that corresponds with the month of the year (1-12) you will see each day for 30 days straight. And the etudes that

correspond to the day of the month (1-31 - particularly 12-31) are basically for sight-reading.

Stick with this for 3 months and you'll be arriving back to school in better shape than when you left!

Happy practicing!

-Chris Smith