***Lesson 2: Making your first notes on the chanter***

Now that you have your chanter, let’s get you started on using it! In this video, I’ll show you how to make your first notes of the basic scale on the practice chanter.

Materials:

* Practice Chanter (RG Hardie or other acceptable brand)
* *Practice Exercises for the Highland Bagpipes* PDF

Lesson Summary

* Hands are positioned left hand on top, right hand on bottom
  + There are pipers who play reverse orientation, which is not wrong, just much less common
* Left hand (top hand) employs use of all fingers except pinky to cover the holes, right hand uses index, middle, ring and pinky finger
* Fingers on both hands should be relaxed and straight, covering the holes with the pads, not the tips, of your fingers.
* **\*IMPORTANT: Do not curl your fingers or play on the tips of your fingers!\***
* **Top hand positioning:** Cover the holes with the last digit of your fingers, flat covering the holes. Your thumb covers the hole on the back of the chanter
* **Bottom hand positioning:** Cover the holes with the middle digits of your fingers, with the exception of your pinky, which will use the last digit. Thumb should remain behind your middle finger on back of the chanter
* The first note to start with is low G, having all the holes covered
* You’ll notice an unpleasant sound as you blow through if all the holes aren’t completely covered. Make completely covering all the holes your first goal
* When you blow through the chanter, use just enough pressure to resonate the reed, too much pressure will make the chanter cut out, too little pressure will cause a raspy sound
* Maintain steady pressure through the chanter to maintain steady pitch
* There are 9 notes of the scale, from bottom to top they are:
  + low G, low A, B, C, D, E, F, hi G and hi A
* Follow along with me in the video one note at a time. Pause the video at various spots if you’d like to study the hand positioning!