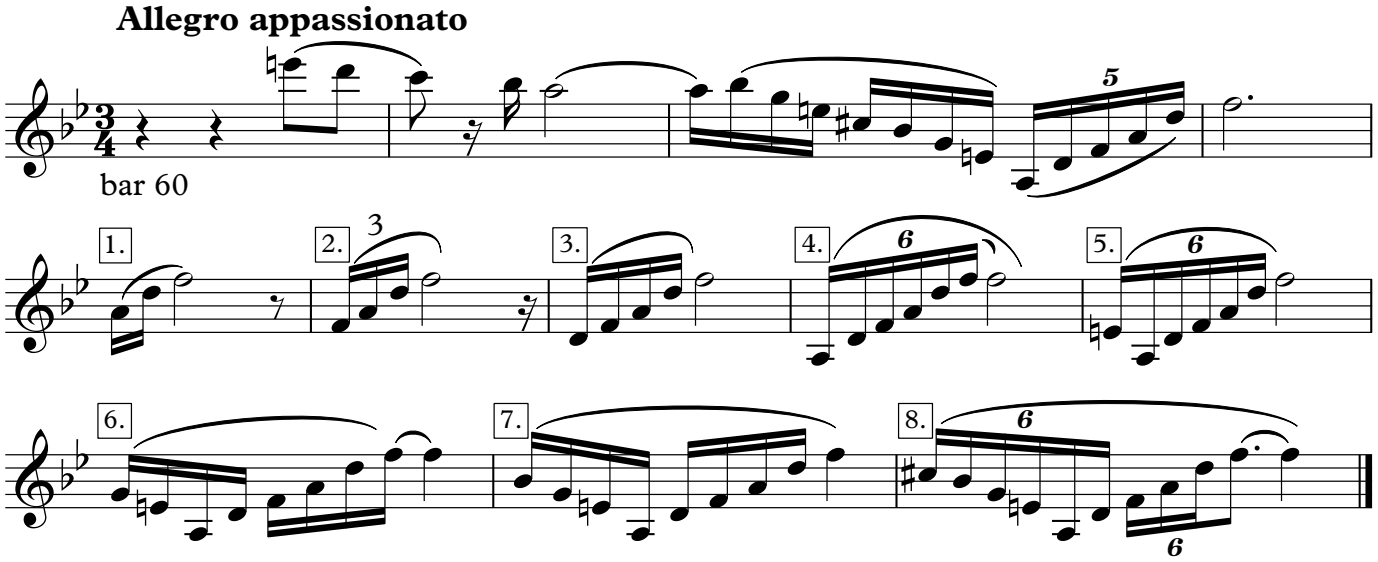
Clarinet Gym Finger Workout

Excerpt from Brahms Sonata No. 1 for Clarinet - 1st movement



The Working Backwards Method for Improving Finger Technic

1. Choose a short section of a piece that is challenging
2. Play the arrival note, with the note before it as if it is a grace note
3. Back up to the two notes before the arrival note, and play as quickly as possible (see sample bar 1. above). Keep the finger very light and easy-feeling.
4. Back up to include the 3 notes before the arrival note, and play them like a triplet (see sample bar 2 above).
5. Back up to 4 note before the arrival note, and treat them like 4 sixteenth notes (see sample bar 3 above).
6. Continue working backwards, switching between a triplet rhythmic feel and a sixteenth note feel.
7. Always have your fingers feel very light on the instrument. Do not back up until you feel that the pattern is playable easily.

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