



Introduction to *Paper Cut* Skill Builders

Skill Builders are short activities and warm-ups intended to help students explore the musical elements of *Paper Cut*. All Skill Builders Sheet Music is provided in two formats: Finale® files and PDF.

SCALE WARM-UP

The tonality of *Paper Cut* is determined more by the accidentals that are applied in each of the parts than by the written key signature. The purpose of the Scale Warm-Up is to prepare the band members to successfully perform *Paper Cut* by applying and carrying through the accidentals by playing a scale that reflects the tonality of the piece. The Scale Warm-Up also reinforces some of the more complex rhythms from *Paper Cut*.

PAPER RHYTHM WARM-UP

The Paper Rhythm Warm-Up provides all the performers an opportunity to experience and practice the manipulation of the paper that is an integral part of the piece.

The rhythms may first be practice by clapping, counting out loud, or performing on a concert pitch determined by the director. Once the rhythm has been mastered, the students should perform the rhythms from each rehearsal letter with paper in the ways indicated in the warm-up. For rehearsal letters A and B, divide the band into two groups. One group performs the rhythms with stems going up and the other performs the stems going down. Switch parts so both groups get to try both rhythms.

A more detailed description of how to manipulate the paper is included in the rehearsal notes with the score. You can also watch Alex Shapiro demonstrate the paper techniques on the Composers Forum YouTube channel: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dcBIQjMEABw>.