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## **Positioning pipes to play, see also on the video link.**

- 1. Pipes carry the military way balanced on the forearm with the chanter hooked in the cord between the bass and next tenor drone. The blow-stick lies alongside the chanter. Being hand-held with bass drone parallel to the ground is far too strained if held for some time, rather “amateur” and not recommended.**
- 2. Unhook to your front carefully to this position ready to place the drones on the shoulder. *Notice the parts held in each hand.***
- 3. On the shoulder, always maintaining straight posture. Notice how the bass drone is close to the neck, drones angle well up, and what the hands are holding.**
- 4. The right hand controls the bag while the left hand takes the position on the chanter of “E” ready to inflate. The right hand is under the bass drone to prevent a nasty bass double tone when striking in.  
Tuning the bass high on the upper pin as you can see avoids double tone.**
- 5. Inflating while the right hand places the bag more under the arm and drones more upright. Inflate with rapid good bursts of puff until you hear the slightest sound of a drone (no pre-attack sound in a band though, or later solo). Pause briefly ready to strike in next.**

**6. Strike in together with a push under the drones (no need to punch) while placing the bag under the arm farther and comfortable position. Immediately after striking in maintain strong enough puffs to increase pressure sufficient to sound the drones only then bring the right hand over to adopt the correct position of “E”. When ready increase pressure to sound a clear “E”; maintaining that steady pressure through co-ordination of breathing and compensatory arm pressure.**

**7/8. Tune drones as shown while sounding a clear steady high “A” as in the video and audio links.**

**9. Note please positions of dress:** head-dress slight incline right, or if straight not left; kilt height not too low (sadly both these are a very common faults today); kilt pin position not at foot of kilt; and hose, etc. A helpful extract from [www.drummajors.net](http://www.drummajors.net) Drum Majors’ Basic Guide, Dress: Kilt: “The recognised way to wear the kilt is to have it cutting the centre of the kneecap. Personally, I prefer to have it just at the top of the kneecap. The kilt should hang level all the way round.” By Drum Major J. MacDonald formerly Drum Major of the Highlanders regiment.

**10. In recital** marching back and forth in a line counter march smoothly facing the audience each end. Avoid turning your back to an audience or judges.