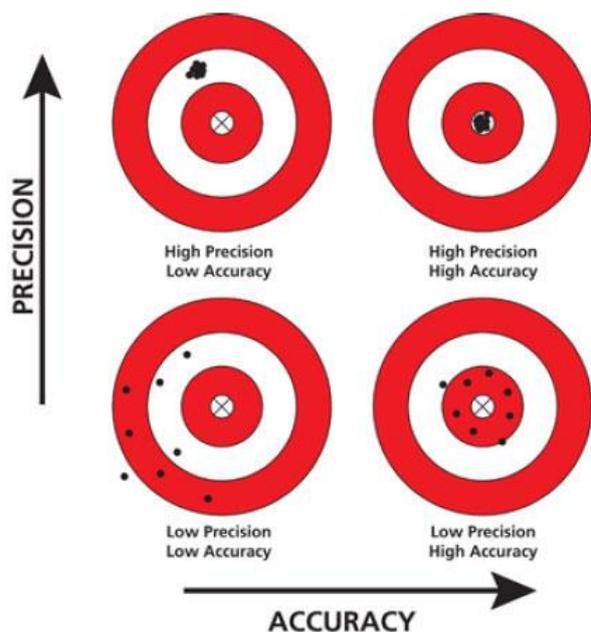


Exercise 2.

In this second exercise we have a little more work to do but the premise is just the same, precision and accuracy of placing the beat on the tick of the metronome.

To explain the difference between precision and accuracy and why both are important we can look at a diagram from Wikipedia:



Obviously we are looking for both precision **and** accuracy in order to improve our ensemble playing. In this diagram we have three very common situations in pipe bands.

In the top left diagram everyone has the same idea of where the beat should lie but are actually not playing it where the instructor/ Pipe Major has indicated it should be.

In the bottom left players have a vague general idea of beat placement but, through poor technique or just plain sloppiness, are unable to keep exactly on the beat and is extremely common in Grade four bands.

So, in order to improve matters, we have another exercise:

Set your metronome to 40-60 beats per minute and the tick is on the gracenote at the very start of each group of four notes so each bar has two “ticks”. If you struggle with where the silent “offbeat” lies (and many players do) set your metronome to 2x your chosen speed and the second “tick” will then be on the second gracenote of the group of four.#

In this first part of the exercise keep the note values all exactly the same , no swing please ☺

In the second part we introduce dot cuts to the to give us the famous 2/4 march idiom of “**One and Two and One and Two and**”

Try to keep the cut notes as short as possible while still being clearly audible. You may find that it helps to set your metronome slower than the first part of the exercise then work your tempo up as you become more familiar with it.