

Don't Shoot the Dog! The New Art of Teaching and Training **by Karen Pryor**

A Pedagogical Pearl Presentation by Patrick Hughes (University of Texas at Austin)
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Methods of Shaping Behavior

- Method 1: “Shoot the animal.” (This definitely works. You will never have to deal with that particular behavior in that particular subject again.)
- Method 2: Punishment. (Everybody’s favorite, in spite of the fact that it almost never really works.)
- Method 3: Negative reinforcement. (Removing something unpleasant when a desired behavior occurs.)
- Method 4: Extinction: Letting the behavior go away by itself.
- Method 5: Train an incompatible behavior. (This method is especially useful for athletes and pet owners.) [and musicians!]
- Method 6: Put the behavior on cue. (Then you never give the cue. This is the dolphin trainer’s most elegant method of getting rid of unwanted behavior.)
- Method 7: “Shape the absence”: reinforce anything and everything that is *not* the undesired behavior. (A kindly way to turn disagreeable relatives into agreeable relatives.)
- Method 8: Change the motivation. (This is the fundamental and most kindly method of all.)

Applications:

Shaping students’ practicing behaviors

In some instances, you can shape a certain aspect of a student’s playing, like lip trills.

Understanding an overall awareness of how behavior can be shaped

Learn to incorporate positive methods of reinforcement into your own practice routine

Shaping behavior is a two way street.

Timing of a reinforcer (negative or positive) is very important. A reinforcement can be anything...a smile, a shrug, raised eyes, etc. Accidentally reinforcing at the wrong time can shape the wrong behavior.

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Patrick Hughes joined the faculty at the University of Texas at Austin in 2001 where he performs with UTBRASS and the University of Texas Winds (faculty WW quintet). He was honored as an Outstanding Teacher by the UT College of Fine Arts in 2005. Prior to his appointment at UT, he taught horn and theory at the University of New Mexico from 1995-2001, where he played principal horn with the Santa Fe Symphony and Santa Fe Pro Musica Chamber Orchestra, and performed throughout the US and in China with the New Mexico Brass Quintet. He has held prior teaching appointments at Ithaca College and SUNY Fredonia and has performed with a number of groups across the US including Santa Fe Opera, Minnesota Opera, San Antonio Opera, Austin Symphony, San Antonio Symphony, New Mexico Symphony, Erie (PA) Philharmonic, Duluth-Superior Symphony, Cedar Rapids Symphony, and the New Columbian Brass Band (KY). In addition to an active free-lance career in Austin, Mr. Hughes is most "at home" as a soloist/recitalist, performing in recitals throughout the US, at yearly regional horn conferences, and at the IHS International Horn Conferences held in 2001 and 2005 and 2008. Recent solo performances include Kazimierz Machala's *Concerto for Horn, Winds, and Percussion* with the Dallas Wind Symphony, and Michael Burritt's *Travelling Music* with the Northwestern Percussion Ensemble at the 2007 Percussive Arts Society Annual Convention. He hosted the 2005 Mid-South Regional Horn Workshop at the University of Texas, and is currently on the Reviewing Committee of the Meir Rimon Commissioning Assistance Fund. Mr. Hughes holds degrees from St. Olaf College and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He can be heard as a contributing artist on the *Thoughtful Wanderings...compositions by Douglas Hill* released in 2001, on *MidWinter* (with singer/songwriter Peter Mayer) released in 2005, and on *New Mexico Winds*, also released in 2005.

The Sarah and Ernest Butler School of Music at the University of Texas at Austin bears the name of two extraordinary people who have, this past spring, given us an endowment totaling \$55 million to support students, faculty and programs within the school. This extraordinary gift is the largest single gift to a school of music in a public university in the nation. We are deeply grateful to Dr. and Mrs. Butler for their generosity and know that with this gift we will become one of the best music schools in the nation.

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We offer a comprehensive array of degree programs ranging from the bachelor's through the doctorate in virtually all concentrations, including a new Artist's Diploma program. Our faculty is made up of some of the most outstanding people in their field. With approximately one hundred full-time music faculty serving slightly more than 700 music students one can easily understand that students in our program receive much personal attention. Yet being housed in one of the country's largest and most outstanding universities our students have opportunities that are not available to students in many other institutions. These enrichment opportunities include the Performing Arts Center, the Blanton Museum, the Harry Ransom Center, the LBJ Library, to name only a few. Each of these organizations brings outstanding guests to campus regularly, along with those of many other campus groups.