

## Practicing Rhythms for Groups of Four Notes

**WARNING:** The following approach to practicing “passagework” is very common. However, this approach is often mishandled. You must not do the following exercises in a “mindless” manner – thinking that if you go through this routine often enough your technical problems will be solved. This is a grave mistake. Practicing must always involve thoughtful analysis in addition to carefully planned repetition. As always, it is advisable to seek out the guidance of a “teacher” – someone that is more experienced and competent than yourself when venturing into unknown territory. If the following exercises are not used properly, bad habits and even injury could result.

**Basic Suggestions:** Use the “long” (the notes with the greatest durations) as an opportunity to release all excess tension. While holding these longer tones, also think ahead to the next “landing spot”. Prepare and then move with great energy in the fingers.

This practicing approach is illustrated with a passage from a Beethoven Piano Sonata.



### Breaking it up into Two Note Groups



### Breaking it up into Four Note Groups

