

ARCHES ARE usually in one of two styles: processional (e.g. wedding marches) and miltary. In Scotland, the vast majority of marches are in the miltary style, and most come from the bagpipe repertoire.

Most bagpipe marches are either written in 2/4 or in 6/8 (it is quite usual to talk of "2/4 marches" and "6/8 marches"), and they have become very popular with all players of Scottish music - it is amazing the variety that you can get from the nine note bagpipe range!

Some Scottish dances use pipe marches; for example: The Gay

Cordons, Canadian Barn Dance, The Eva Three Step, etc.

Rhythm and Pick Direction

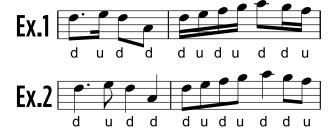
Whether we're talking about 2/4 or 6/8, the essential rhythm is two beats in the bar. Marches are

of a troup of soldiers marching along a road, you get an idea of the rhythm.

When it comes to 6/8 marches, the pick firection should be the same as for jigs. However, marches in 2/4 tend to have mostly eighth notes, and you use mostly downstrokes throughout. The exceptions would be the note after a dotted note, and the second of a pair of

sixteenth notes (semiquavers) - see Example 1.

Another way of thinking about it is to imagine the notes double in value, and then apply the normal pick direction rules (Example 2).



The Queen's Welcome to Invercauld (J S Skinner) 2/4 pipe march







