

Scoring a Mock Tuning Exam using Pocket RCT

This procedure explains how to use Pocket RCT's internal scoring program to calculate a score for a mock exam of Part 1 (aurally tuning the midrange and temperament, excluding A4 Pitch) of PTG's RPT Tuning Exam. It is NOT official exam procedure and should be used only as an educational tool.

1. On a piano in fairly good tune at A440, mute midrange notes C3-B4 so only one string per note is open.
2. Tap Tools>Chameleon. In the upper right corner, select OTS style "RPT Exam". Click the Advanced tab and check "Smart Partial". Under "After calculating tuning" check the boxes "Name and save" and "Show graph". Tap OK.
3. Sample the A's as usual. (Try to get low variances, .15 or lower.) Tap Calculate. Name this new tuning something descriptive, for example "MyName Exam". Tap Save and Tune.
4. Tap File>View Tunings. Find MyName Exam (it's probably the last item in the list). Tap and hold MyName Exam and select Copy.
5. Tap File>New. Under File Type, select Exam Score file (*.exam). Name this new file something descriptive, for example "MockExam TodaysDate". Tap on New File to create an RPT Exam Tuning File, which will include six tunings pre-named #1 Examinee, #2 Points, #3 Master, #4 Difference, #5 Detuning, and #6 A4 Pitch.
6. Tap and hold tuning #1 Examinee. Select Paste, which will add a new tuning MyName Exam. Tap and hold Examinee (now tuning #2) and select Delete. Tap and hold #3 Master. Select Paste. Tap and hold Master (now tuning #4) and select Delete. You should be back to six tunings: #1 MyName Exam, #2 Points, #3 MyName Exam, #4 Difference, #5 Detuning, and #6 A4 Pitch.
7. Tap and hold tuning #1 MyName Exam and select Rename. Enter "Examinee" and tap Save. Using the same procedure, rename tuning #3 "Master". (It's not required that you rename these tunings. The scoring program works anyways. But renaming them now will help you avoid future confusion.)
8. Tap Tools>Score Exam. Tap Detune. A graph of tuning #5 Detuning will open. (Notice the detuned notes are alternately sharp and flat. This is by design, to minimize plate flexing and tuning instability.) Tap the Spinner icon in the upper right to open tuning #5 Detuning in CyberEar. (If the graph didn't open, tap File>View Tunings and tap the Spinner icon located to the left of tuning #5 Detuning.) Tune the midrange notes C3-B4 to match the Spinner. Don't worry about being too perfect here because, duh, you're just detuning.

9. It's Exam time! Turn off your Pocket RCT device. Take a deep breath (remember to exhale) and aurally tune midrange notes C3 to B4. Tip: Give yourself a time limit, generous at first (60 minutes?), less for subsequent attempts (15 minutes!). The official RPT Exam time limit for Part 1 is 45 minutes. (Your real exam will include setting pitch for A4, which this procedure excludes.)
10. When your time is up (whew), turn on your Pocket RCT device. Tap File>View Tunings. Tap the Spinner icon located to the left of tuning #1 Examinee to open it in CyberEar.
11. Select note C3 in CyberEar. Tap the Listener Ear under the Tune Box, then play C3, sustaining it until the Spinner fills in. Test the accuracy of the measurement by playing C3 again; the Spinner should fully blush. If not, manually adjust the Tune Box by tapping on a digit in the Tune Box and tapping the Up/Down arrows while playing C3. When satisfied, tap Save Cents (the button with a piano icon and the word "Save", located just to the right of the Tune Box's Listener Ear). CyberEar will automatically save the Tune Box reading for C3, then switch to C#3 and be ready for auto-measuring, as indicated by the Spinner's flashing ring. Play C#3, repeating the procedure as previously described for C3. Continue up to B4.
12. After measuring B4, tap Tools>Score Exam. Select the lowest note of your temperament octave/sequence (for most people it's F3). Tap Score. Tuning #2 Points will open in Graph view. Tap Tools>CyberEar. A note's points-off deduction is displayed in the Tune Box. Select note C3 and note-switch up chromatically to B4, writing down each note's points-off deduction.
13. To calculate your exam score: For Midrange notes C3-B4, add up the total points off in the midrange (C3-B4) and multiply by 1.5, then subtract from 100. For Temperament, add up the total points off of the 13 notes in your temperament octave (e.g., F3-F4) and multiply by 2.5, then subtract from 100. The minimum passing score for each section is 80. For more complete info on the RPT Tuning Exam, please read PTG's Prescreening Manual, especially section 7.1, pages 19-20, available free at ptg.org (enter your Member login and password and click on the Certification Exams link in the left column.)
14. When you're done with this self-scoring procedure, re-open the tuning file you usually have open, such as Pocket RCT Library. Select Tools>Chameleon 3 then turn off your PDA. This will help insure your next sampled/calculated tuning gets placed in its normal and expected location (instead of your newly-created exam tuning file MockExam TodaysDate).