

# Practice, practice, practice



For eight years, Ernestine Pringler worked for Iowa World Airways as a flight attendant. While the job was enjoyable, Ernestine secretly yearned to play timpani in the Panzerville Orbital Orchestra. She even took to smuggling a travel-sized kettledrum aboard the aircraft wherever she flew. And when she wasn't busy collecting motion discomfort bags, she'd hide in the little galley and practice, practice, practice. Eventually, the incessant pounding compromised the integrity of some fuselage welds, and the airplane broke apart as it was flying into Panzerville one day. Ernestine was delighted to discover that her kettledrum, when inverted, made a fine parachute, and she landed unharmed. (The fate of the passengers is another story.) Her escape from certain disaster prompted the airport superintendent to hire her as an air traffic controller, where she found that her kettledrum made a dandy table on which to rest her clipboard, affording her even more opportunities to practice, practice, practice.