

CHAPTER I

Open strings and the introduction of rhythms

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Exercise 1: The thirds

The goals of this exercise are:

- Learn to place several fingers at once in tune.
- Each string has a different finger pattern for you to practice

The musical score consists of six staves, each representing a different string of the violin. The notes are written in a sequence that moves up and down the string, with fingerings indicated by numbers 0, 1, 2, 3, and 4. Slurs are used to group notes that are played simultaneously. The first staff (E string) starts with 0, 1, 2, 0, 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3, 4, 2. The second staff (A string) starts with 4, 3, 2, 4, 3, 2, 1, 3, 2, 1, 0, 2, 0. The third staff (D string) starts with 0, 1, 2, 0, 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3, 4, 2, 4, 3. The fourth staff (G string) starts with 2, 4, 3, 2, 1, 3, 2, 1, 0, 2, 0. The fifth staff (F string) starts with 0, 1, 2, 0, 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3, 4, 2. The sixth staff (E string) starts with 4, 3, 2, 4, 3, 2, 1, 3, 2, 1, 0, 2, 0.

Exercise 2: The thirds with string crossings

The goals of this exercise are:

- Learning to place a third with string crossings will require you to drop a 3rd finger in tune on a lower string. It also requires good coordination between the string crossing (the bow) and the placing of the fingers.

Intervals in Practice: A little piece in 3/4

Here we put into practice all the intervals we have practiced so far. This slow dance in 3/4 is a beautiful little piece to show how it all fits together.

The musical score consists of six systems, each with two staves. The music is written in bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The time signature is 3/4. The score includes various intervals and fingerings indicated by numbers 0-4 and slurs.

System 1: The first staff has a sequence of notes with fingerings: 0, 1, 2, 1, 2, 3, 2, 1, 4, 0, 3, 0, 1, 0, 3, 2, 3, 4, 4, 0. The second staff has fingerings: 3, 0, 1, 0, 1, 2, 1, 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 0, 1, 2, 3, 0, 1, 2, 3.

System 2: The first staff has fingerings: 0, 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 3, 2, 1, 1, 0, 3, 4. The second staff has fingerings: 0, 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 0, 1, 2, 0, 1, 3.

System 3: The first staff has fingerings: 0, 1, 2, 1, 2, 3, 2, 1, 4, 0, 3, 0, 1, 0, 3, 2, 3, 4, 4, 0. The second staff has fingerings: 3, 0, 1, 0, 1, 2, 1, 0, 1, 2, 3, 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 3, 1, 2.

Exercise 3: The Fourths

The last of the intervals that can be played on one string is the fourth.

Some fourths were hidden in Exercise 2, when we trained thirds across strings. Essentially placing a third finger after an open string is identical to placing a fourth between 0 and 3. The only difference is that now both notes are on the same string

The image displays six staves of musical notation for Exercise 3: The Fourths. Each staff contains a sequence of notes with fingerings (0-4) and slurs indicating intervals of a fourth on a single string. The notation is as follows:

- Staff 1: 0, 1, 2, 3, 0, 3, 0, 2, 1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 1, 4
- Staff 2: 0, 1, 2, 3, 0, 3, 0, 2, 1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 4, 0
- Staff 3: 1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 4, 1, 4, 1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 1, 4
- Staff 4: 1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 4, 1, 3, 2, 3, 0, 1, 2, 1, 4
- Staff 5: 3, 0, 1, 2, 3, 2, 3, 1, 0, 1, 2, 3, 0, 0, 3
- Staff 6: 0, 1, 2, 3, 0, 3, 0, 2, 1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 4, 0

Intervals in Practice: A little piece in 4/4

Another short piece that combines everything we learned so far.

The musical score consists of four staves, each representing a guitar string. The time signature is 4/4. The piece is written in a key with one sharp (F#), specifically D major. The notation includes various intervals, such as thirds, fourths, and fifths, often connected by slurs. Fretting numbers (0-4) are placed above the notes to indicate finger placement. The piece concludes with a double bar line on the fourth staff.

Staff 1 (Low E string): 0 0 1 2 3 4 3 0 3 0 1 4 0 3 0 0 1 2 3 0 1 3 0 3 1 2 3

Staff 2 (A string): 0 3 0 1 0 3 0 0 1 4 1 2 0 1 0 3 0 1 0 3 0 0 1 4 1 2 3

Staff 3 (D string): 3 0 3 4 3 0 1 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 1 2 3 4 3 0

Staff 4 (G string): 3 0 1 4 0 0 0 1 2 3 2 1 0 3 0 3

Exercise 4: The diminished Fifths

Diminished fifths are awkward to play. They require you to play two notes on different strings with the same finger. However, you have to move that finger down a semi tone as you change strings. This requires you to pay attention to relaxing your thumb. Tension in your left hand will make this exercise much more difficult. On top of that you have to concentrate on intonation and coordinate clean string changes with both hands.

During the recordings I have split this exercise into three parts (A B C) to keep it manageable. Only the last two recordings will play through the entire exercise as printed here.

B

1 1 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 1 0 2 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 1 2

2 2 2 0 2 0 2 0 2 2 1 3 2 0 2 0 2 0 2 0 2 2 3

3 3 3 0 3 0 3 0 3 3 2 0 3 0 3 0 3 0 3 0 3 3 4

4 4 4 0 4 0 4 0 4 4 3 1 4 0 4 0 4 0 4 0 4 4 1

A

Section A consists of four staves of musical notation. Each staff contains a sequence of notes with fret numbers written above them. The notes are connected by slurs, indicating a continuous melodic line. The fret numbers for the four staves are: 1 1 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 1 0 2 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 1 2; 2 2 2 0 2 0 2 0 2 2 1 3 2 0 2 0 2 0 2 0 2 2 3; 3 3 3 0 3 0 3 0 3 3 2 0 3 0 3 0 3 0 3 0 3 3 4; 4 4 4 0 4 0 4 0 4 4 3 1 4 0 4 0 4 0 4 0 4 4 1.

C

Section C consists of four staves of musical notation, similar in format to Section A. The fret numbers for the four staves are: 1 1 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 1 0 2 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 1 2; 2 2 2 0 2 0 2 0 2 2 1 3 2 0 2 0 2 0 2 0 2 2 3; 3 3 3 0 3 0 3 0 3 3 2 0 3 0 3 0 3 0 3 0 3 3 4; 4 4 4 0 4 0 4 0 4 4 3 1 4 0 4 0 4 0 4 0 4 4 1.

Exercise 5: The Fifths and Sixths

The previous exercise only dealt with the diminished fifth. This exercise will practice the placement of fifths (one finger on two strings) and the sixths. It is essential you understand the structure of your finger patterns in order to play all intervals in tune!

The exercise consists of six staves of music, each containing a sequence of notes with fingerings (0-4) indicated above them. The notes are primarily half notes. A bracketed section in each staff indicates a specific interval pattern, likely a sixth or fifth.

Staff 1: 0 1 0 1 1 2 1 2 2 3 2 3 3 4 3 4 0 1

Staff 2: 0 1 1 2 1 2 2 3 2 3 3 4 3 4 0 1

Staff 3: 0 1 1 2 1 2 2 3 2 3 3 4 3 4 2

Staff 4: 4 3 4 3 3 2 3 2 2 1 2 1 1 0

Staff 5: 1 0 4 3 4 3 3 2 3 2 2 1 2 1 1 0

Staff 6: 1 0 4 3 4 3 3 2 3 2 2 1 2 1 0

Exercise 6: The Sevenths, Octaves and Arpeggios

This final exercise focuses on building octaves through arpeggios. In the process we get to practice our first arpeggios (broken chords). The transition from each two bar motive is the seventh, a dissonant interval that is hard to tune. By putting it in this context it becomes easier to practice than in a straightforward seventh drill.

