CHAPTER I

Open strings and the introduction of rhythms

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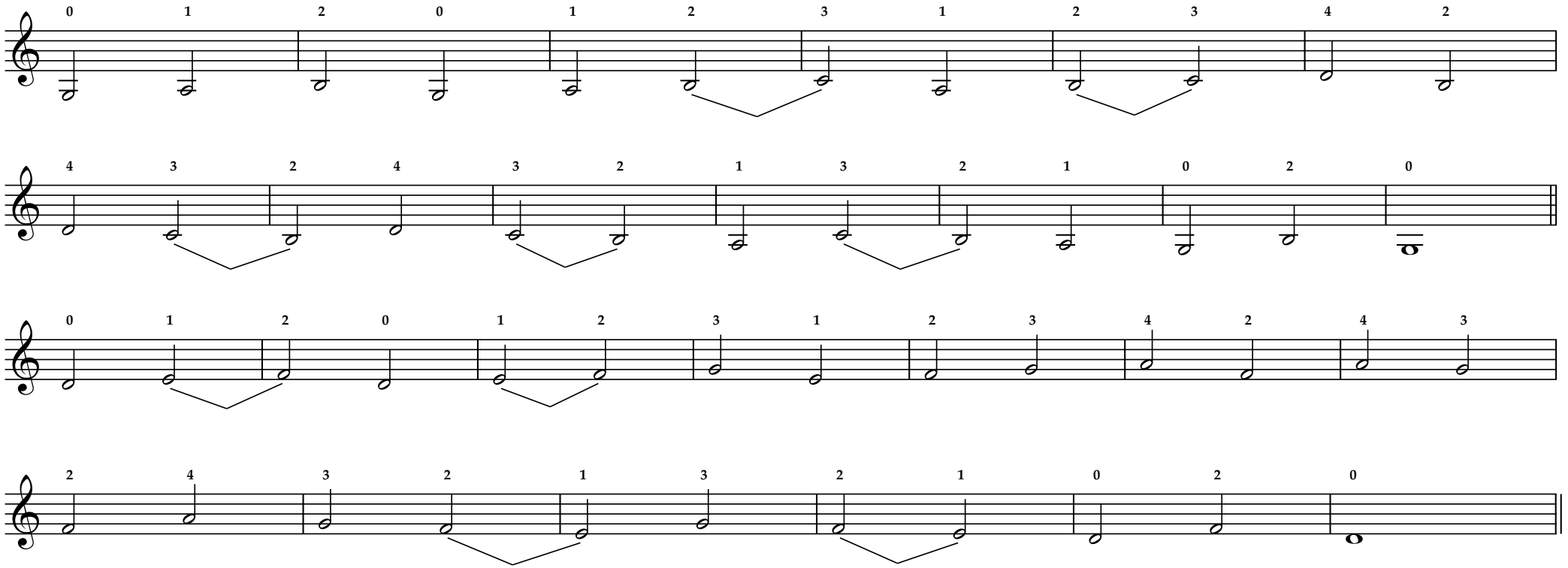
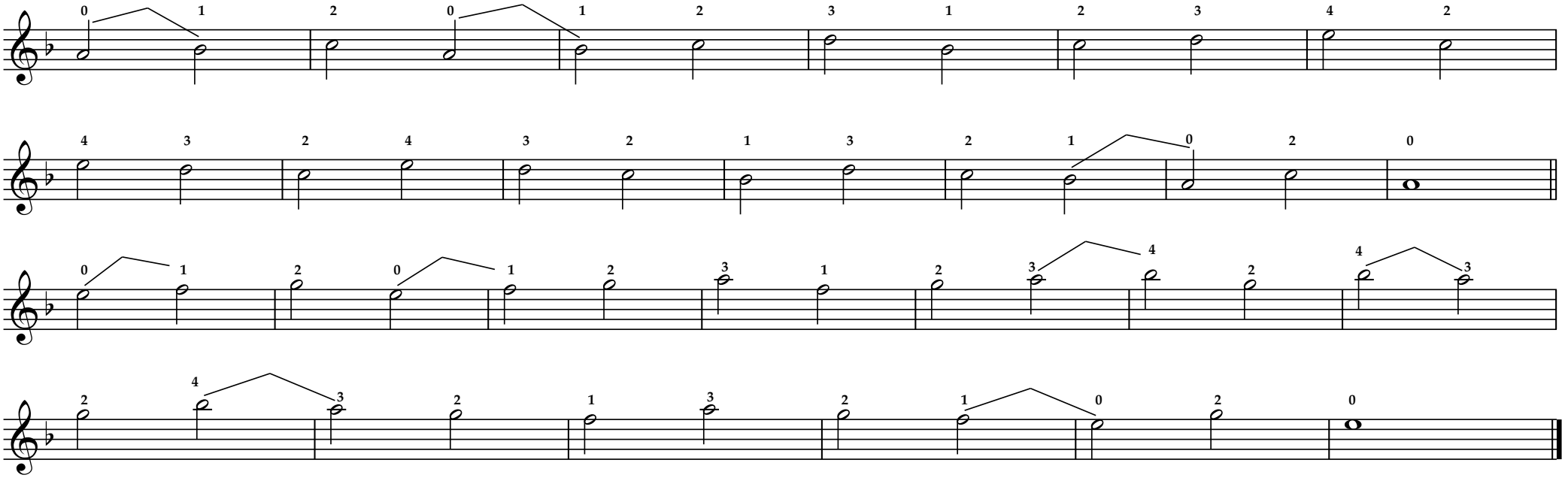
Edited from École pratique du violon

Exercise 1: The thirds

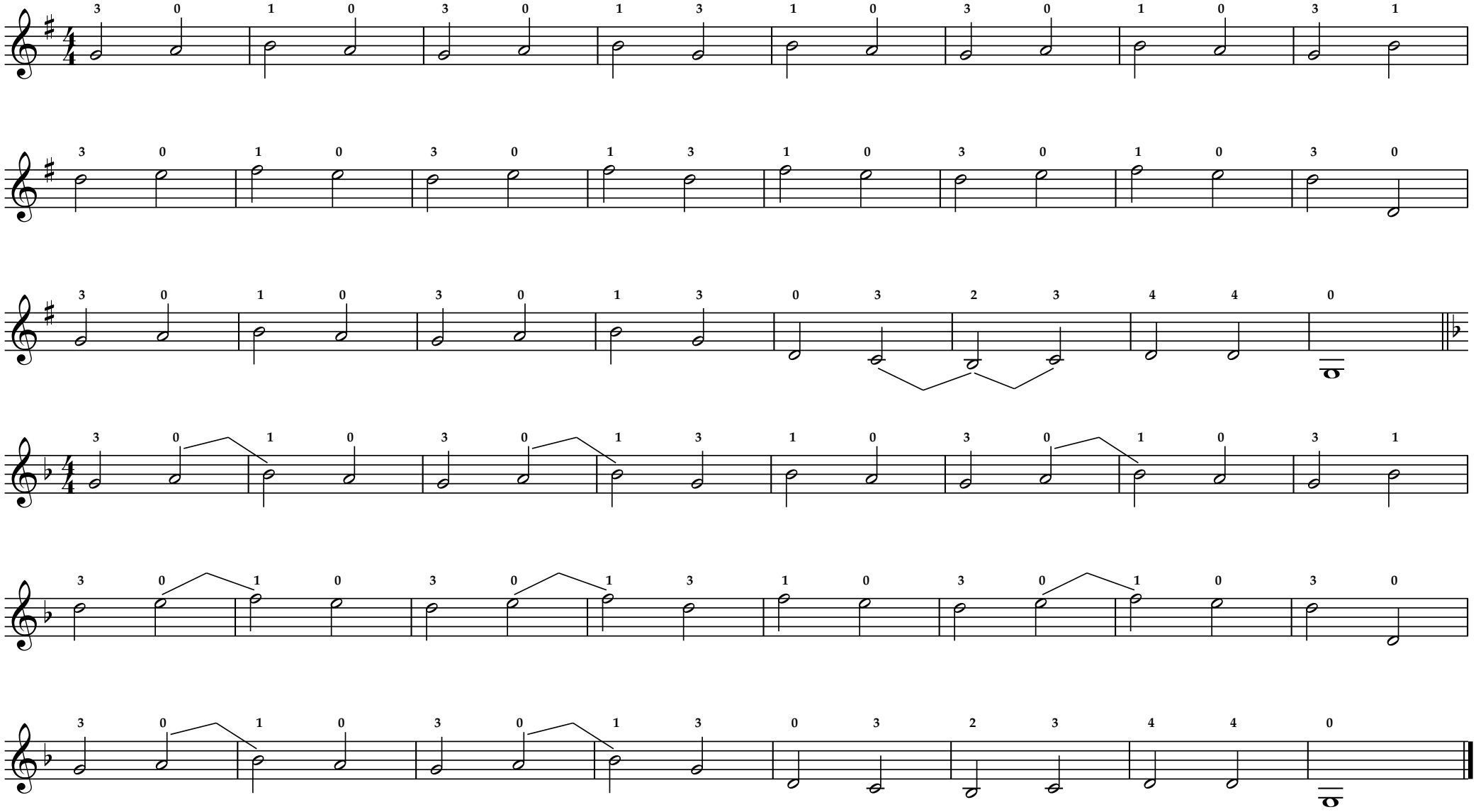
The goals of this exercise are:
- Learn to place several fingers at once in tune.
- Each string has a different finger pattern for you to practice




0 1 2 0 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 2
4 3 2 4 3 2 1 3 2 1 0 2 0
0 1 2 0 1 2 3 1 2 3 4 2 4 3
2 4 3 2 1 3 2 1 0 2 0

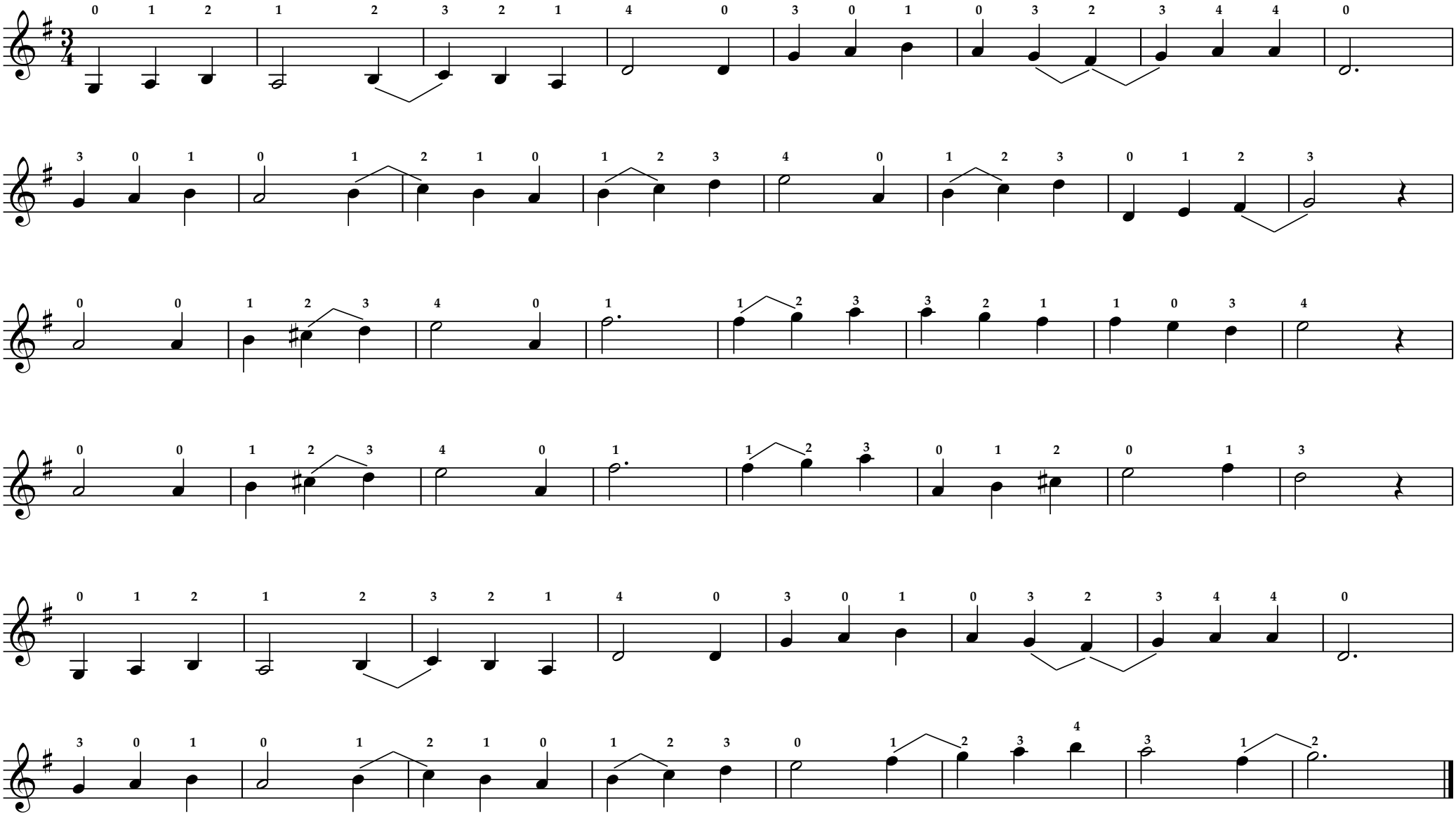
Exercise 2: The thirds with string crossings

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

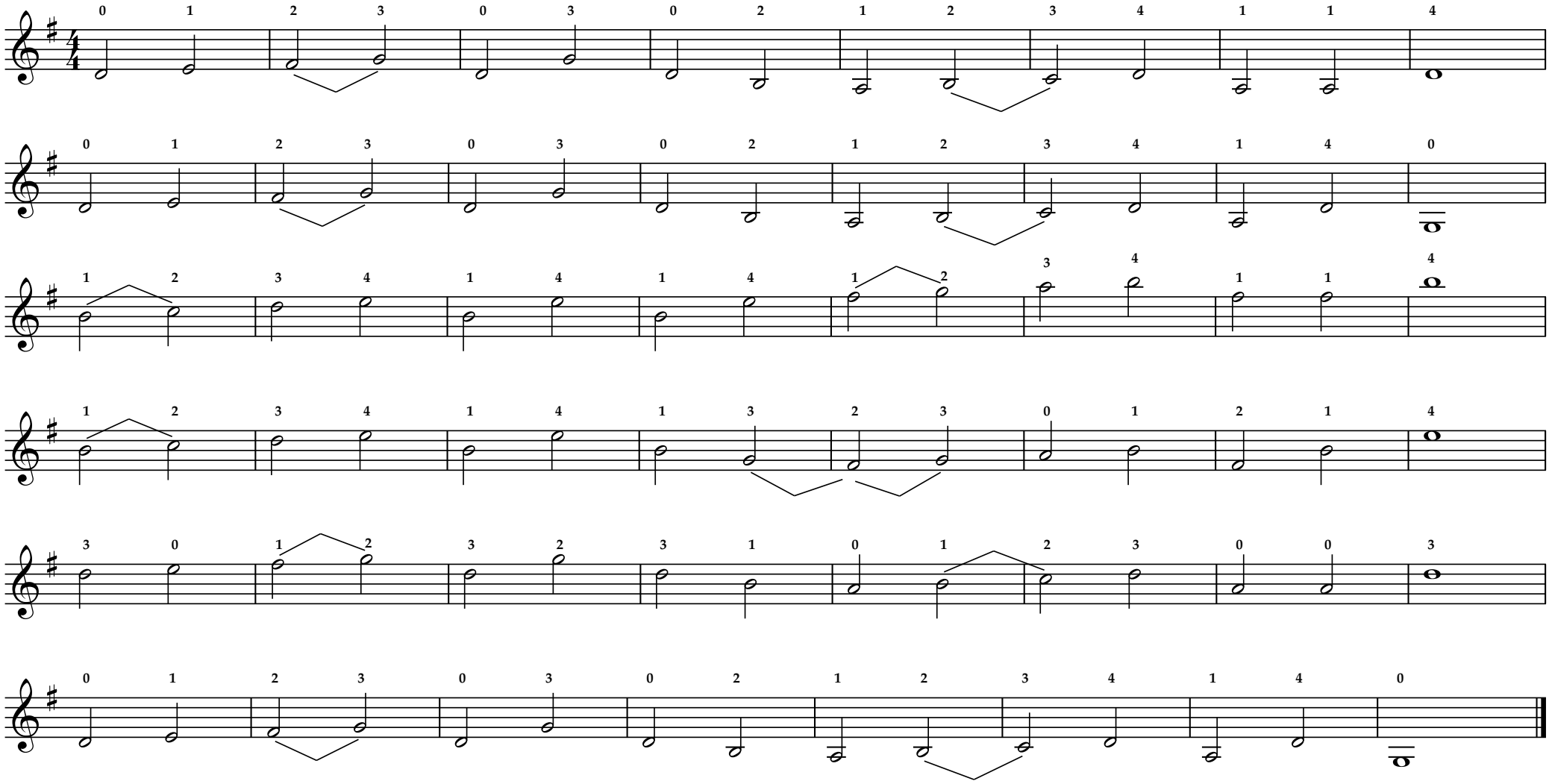
Here we put into practice all the intervals we have practiced so far. This slow dance in 3/4 is a beautiful little piece to show how it all fits together



Exercise 3: The Fourths

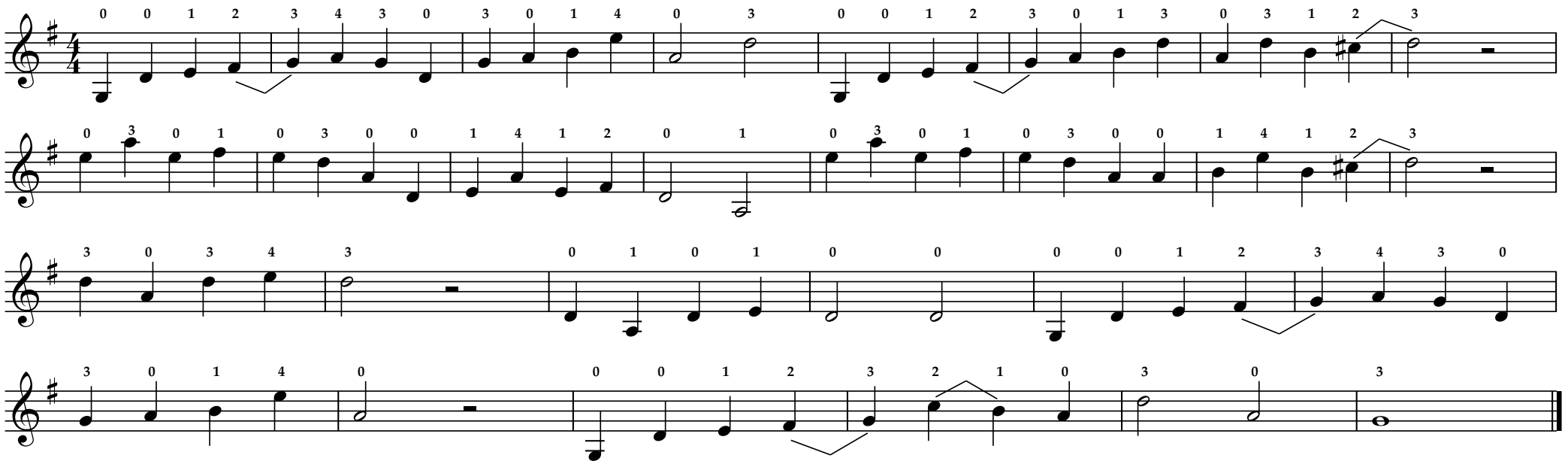
The last of the intervals that can be played on one string is the fourth.

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



Intervals in Practice: A little piece in 4/4

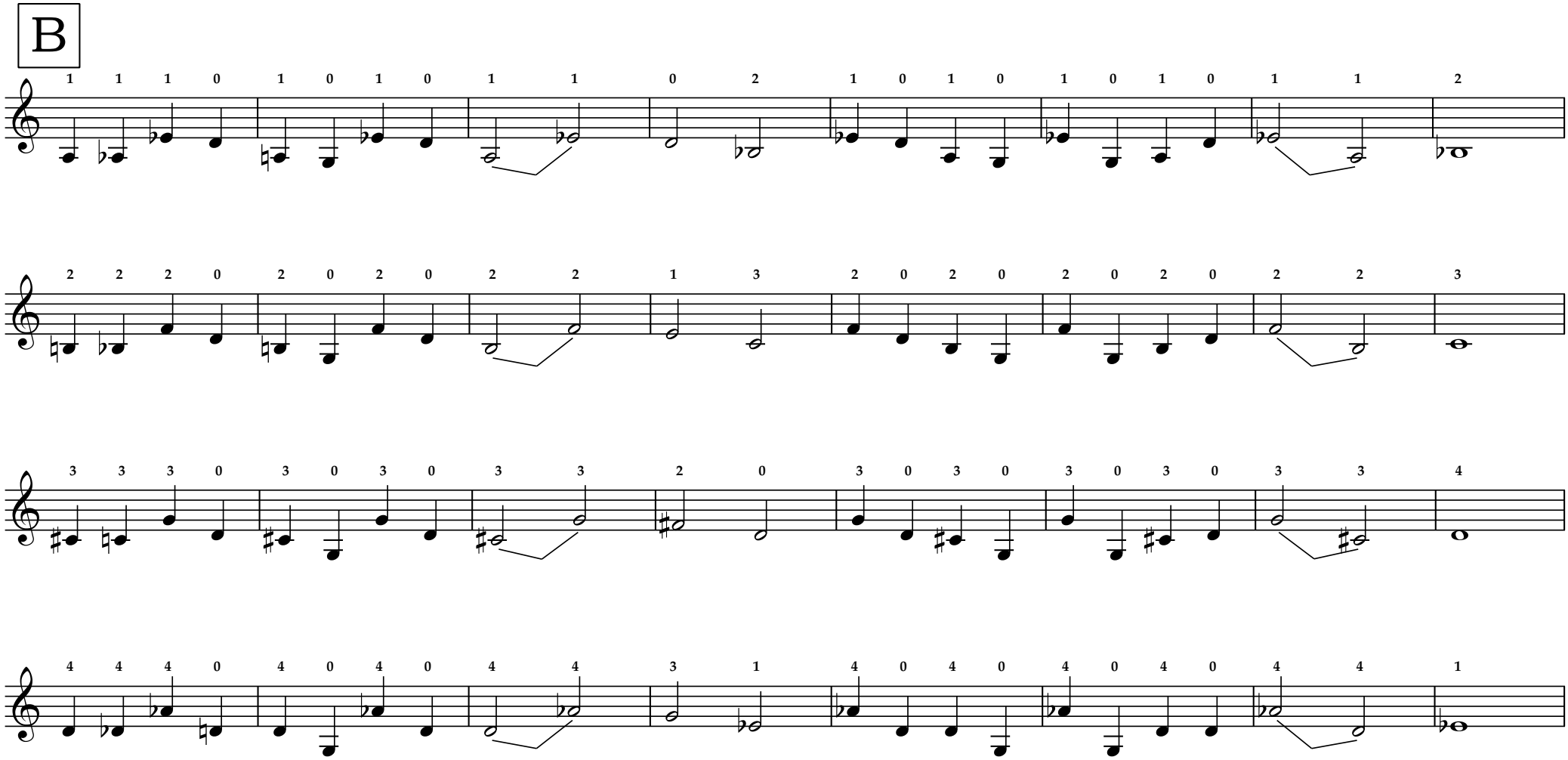
Another short piece that combines everything we learned so far.



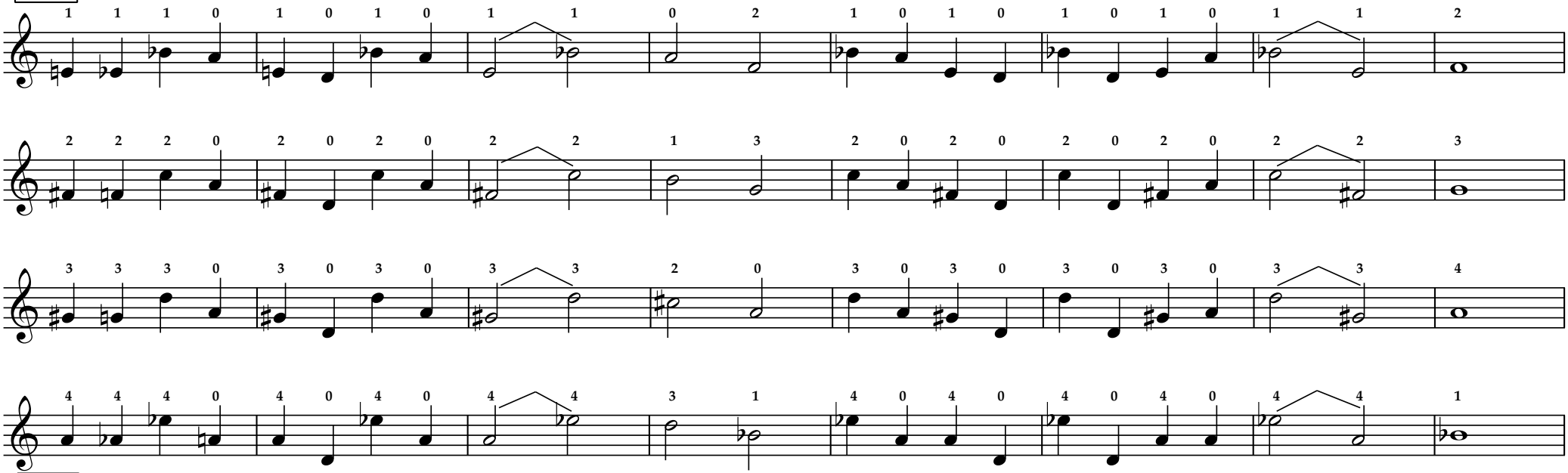
Exercise 4: The diminished Fifths

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.

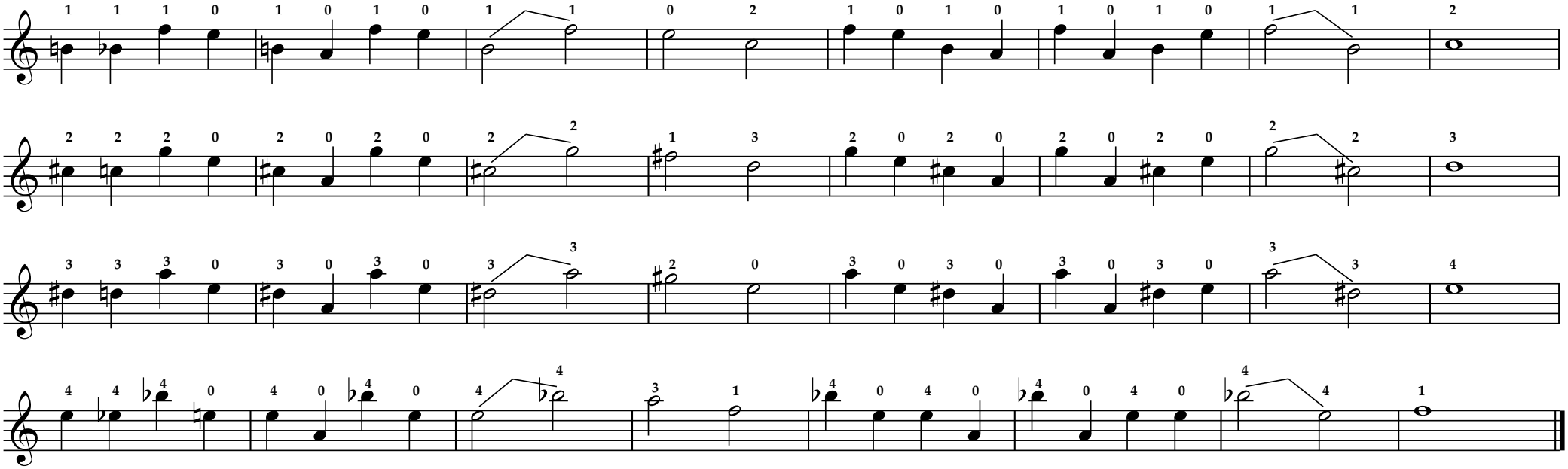
During the recordings I have split this exercise into three parts (A B C) to keep it manageable. Only the last two recordings will play through the entire exercise as printed here.



A

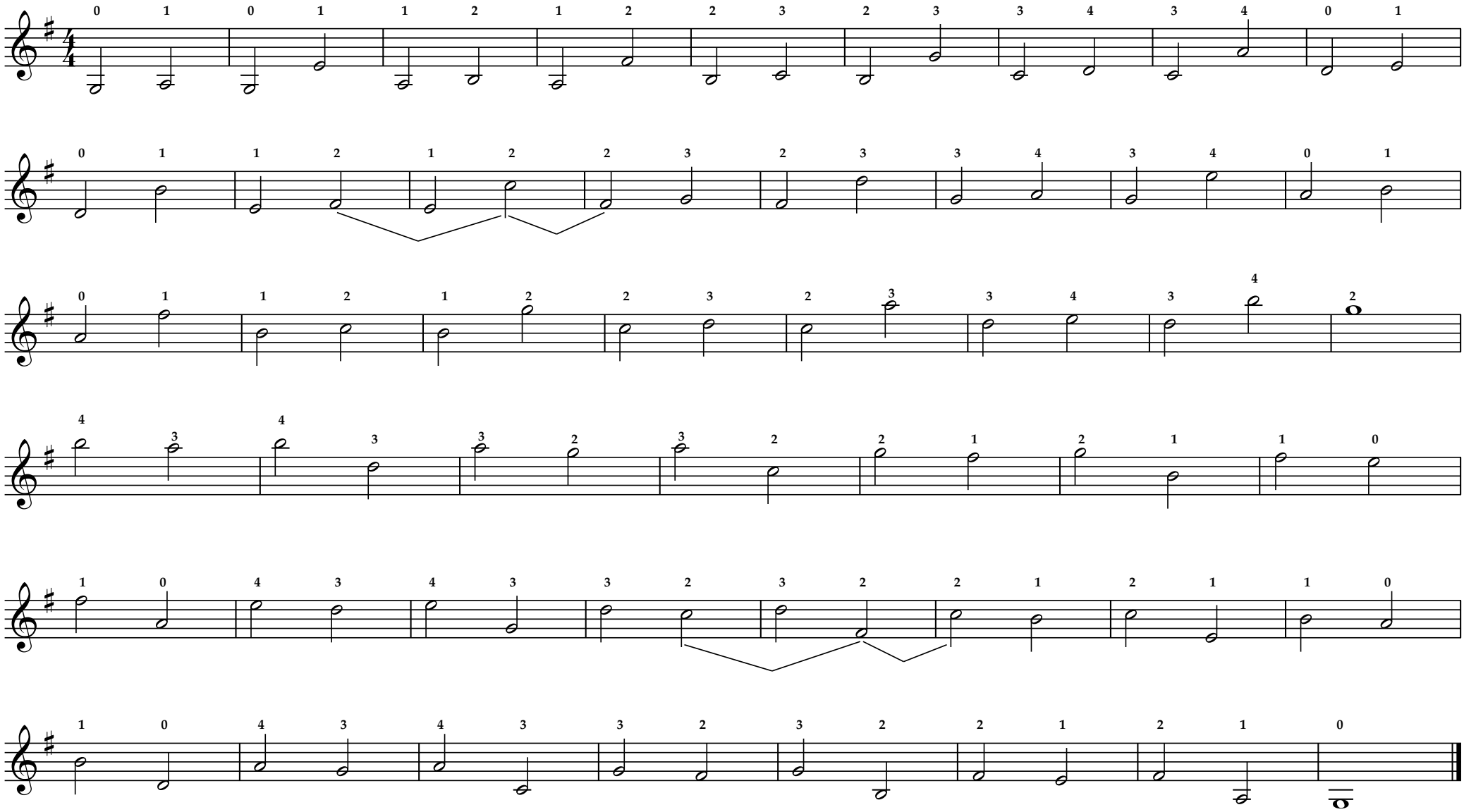


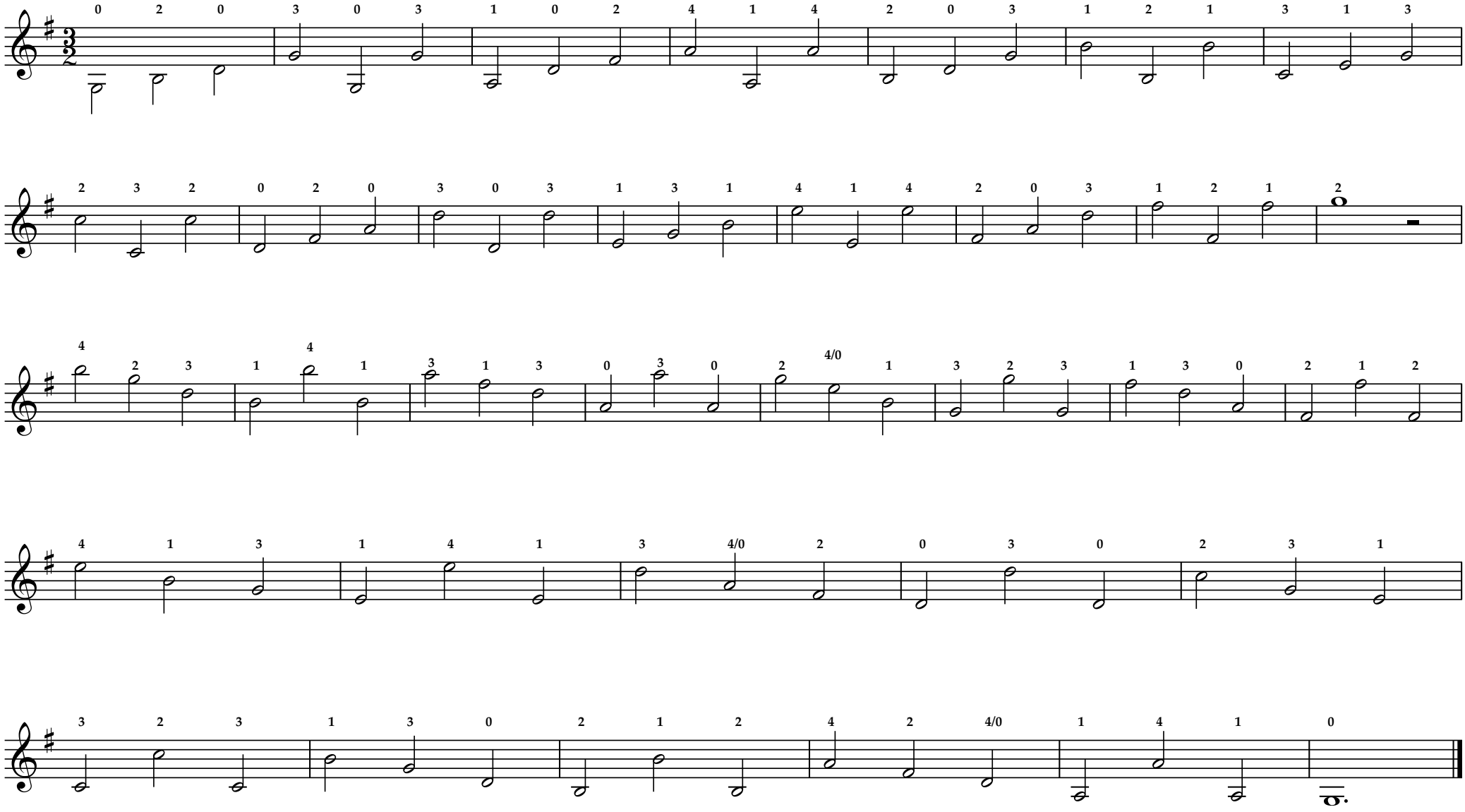
C



Exercise 5: The Fifths and Sixths

The previeous 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!



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.