

SHIFTING IN PASSAGES

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SHIFTING IN PASSAGES

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APART from any consideration of the bow, shifting is the chief disturbing factor in passage work on the violin, as the necessary and usually quick movement of the hand and arm is likely to disarrange the position of the fingers in relation to the strings.

The position of the hand in shifting is usually treated in a haphazard manner, the intonation of the note being the main concern. Granted the violinist possesses a "good ear," most important for good intonation and clean passage work is the accurate and systematic placing of the hand in positions that bring the notes comfortably under the fingers.

If, in the following exercises, the physical aspect of shifting be kept uppermost, using intonation merely as a proof of the correctness or otherwise of the hand position, it should become habitual for the student to sense these positions so correctly that the hand will be placed with comfort and certainty, leaving the mind free for other things.

* Before making a shift, have the objective position clearly in mind. As clearness of thought in this matter is often taken for granted without its being present, it is suggested that in the following exercises, before the note preceding the shift is played, the oncoming note and its position be named *aloud*.

Get to know exactly where the hand should be placed for each position, and in shifting ignore the intervening distance. Think only of the position of the hand for the objective note and insist on taking up definitely the same position whether approaching from above or below. *This is the essence of this study.*

Insist on the three unused fingers being kept above and equidistant from the string in use.

Keep the shifting finger barely in contact with the string—not pressed down while shifting.

Do not grip with the thumb.

Keep the bow moving during shifts.

Do not allow the violin to move either to right or left.

Frequently practise placing the hand silently in any chosen position without preparation, testing the position by sounding a note.

Do not use vibrato.

For clear articulation: first play the passage slowly and loudly, using the whole bow. Treat each note as an individual note, with a quick and complete pressing of the string to the fingerboard and a quick release of the fingers. Make each note "click."

Give the dotted notes their full value with full tone.

As certainty increases, increase the speed, playing more softly and using less bow.

In Variation 4 of each exercise see that the 5th and 6th notes of the first group, and the 1st and 2nd notes of the second group are played evenly and firmly — especially do not wait on the first note of the 2nd group.

* Read this frequently.

First Finger Shifts

Lento

II III IV V VI VII VIII VII VI V IV III II I

Play the above also from memory, naming the notes and positions.

VARIATION I

During the rests, quickly place the hand back in the original position, retaining in mind however, the exact position of the hand for the objective note, so that the ensuing quick shift may be done confidently.

VARIATION II: The shift at the end of a passage

VARIATION III: The shift at the beginning of a passage

* Watch the A♭ & D♯ in this bar.

VARIATION IV: The shift in the middle of a passage

The musical score contains five staves of music, each with a different rhythmic pattern labeled with Roman numerals:

- Staff 1: I, II, III
- Staff 2: IV, V, VI
- Staff 3: VII, VIII, VII
- Staff 4: VI, V, IV
- Staff 5: III, II, I

The music is in common time and has a key signature of one flat. The notes are primarily eighth and sixteenth notes, with occasional quarter notes.

Second Finger

II III IV V VI VII VIII VII VI V IV III II I

Var. 1

Continue this figure to the VIII Position, then return.

Var. 2

Var. 3

Var. 4

Var. 5

Third Finger

The image shows a musical score for 'The Well-Tempered Clavier'. It consists of five staves of music. The top staff is the original melody, followed by four variations labeled 'Var. I', 'Var. 2', 'Var. 3', and 'Var. 4'. Each staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The music is in common time. The notes are primarily eighth and sixteenth notes, with some sixteenth-note patterns. The lyrics are represented by Roman numerals above the notes, indicating harmonic progressions. The variations show different ways of playing the same melody, often changing the rhythm or the way the chords are approached.

Fourth Finger

The first section of the exercise consists of a single melodic line on a treble clef staff. The key signature is A major (two sharps). The melody starts with eighth-note pairs (II, III, IV, V) followed by sixteenth-note pairs (VI, VII, VIII), then returns to eighth-note pairs (VII, VI, V, IV, III, II, I). Below this, there are four variations (Var. 1, Var. 2, Var. 3, Var. 4) each consisting of two measures. Var. 1 uses eighth-note pairs (II, I, VII, VII). Var. 2 uses eighth-note pairs (VIII, VII, VIII, VII). Var. 3 uses eighth-note pairs (VIII, VII, VII, VII). Var. 4 uses eighth-note pairs (II, VIII, VII, VII).

First and Second Fingers

The second section of the exercise consists of a single melodic line on a treble clef staff. The key signature is E major (no sharps or flats). The melody starts with eighth-note pairs (II, III, IV, V, VI, VII) followed by sixteenth-note pairs (VI, V, IV, III, II, I). Below this, there are four variations (Var. 1, Var. 2, Var. 3, Var. 4) each consisting of two measures. Var. 1 uses eighth-note pairs (II, I, II, VII, VI, VII). Var. 2 uses eighth-note pairs (II, VII, VI, VII, VI, VI). Var. 3 uses eighth-note pairs (II, VII, VI, VII, VI, VI). Var. 4 uses eighth-note pairs (II, VII, VI, VII, VI, VI).

First and Third Fingers

A musical staff in G clef, 2/4 time, and B-flat key signature. It shows a sequence of eighth-note pairs. Fingerings above the notes indicate the first and third fingers being used: II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VI, V, IV, III, II, I.

Var. 1

A musical staff in G clef, 2/4 time, and B-flat key signature. It shows a sequence of eighth-note pairs. Fingerings above the notes indicate the first and third fingers: II, I, II.

A musical staff in G clef, 2/4 time, and B-flat key signature. It shows a sequence of eighth-note pairs. Fingerings above the notes indicate the first and third fingers: VI, VII, VI, VII, VI, V, VI, V.

Var. 2

A musical staff in G clef, 6/8 time, and B-flat key signature. It shows a sequence of eighth-note pairs. Fingerings above the notes indicate the first and third fingers: II.

A musical staff in G clef, 2/4 time, and B-flat key signature. It shows a sequence of eighth-note pairs. Fingerings above the notes indicate the first and third fingers: VI, VII, VI, V.

Var. 3

A musical staff in G clef, 9/8 time, and B-flat key signature. It shows a sequence of eighth-note pairs. Fingerings above the notes indicate the first and third fingers: II.

A musical staff in G clef, 2/4 time, and B-flat key signature. It shows a sequence of eighth-note pairs. Fingerings above the notes indicate the first and third fingers: VI, VII, VI, V.

Var. 4

A musical staff in G clef, 9/8 time, and B-flat key signature. It shows a sequence of eighth-note pairs. Fingerings above the notes indicate the first and third fingers: II.

A musical staff in G clef, 2/4 time, and B-flat key signature. It shows a sequence of eighth-note pairs. Fingerings above the notes indicate the first and third fingers: VI, VII, VI, V.

First and Fourth Fingers

Musical score for first and fourth fingers, measures 1-6. The key signature is one flat. The music consists of six measures of eighth-note patterns. Fingerings are indicated above the notes: II, III, IV, V, VII, V, VI, V, IV, III, II, I.

Var. 1

Music for Variation 1, measure 1. The key signature is one flat. The pattern consists of eighth-note pairs followed by quarter notes. Fingerings: 1, 2, 1, 2, 1, 3, 1, 4, 1, 4, 1, 4, 1, 4.

Continuation of Variation 1, measures 2-6. The key signature is one flat. The pattern consists of eighth-note pairs followed by quarter notes. Fingerings: V, VII, V, VII, V, VI, V, VI, V, IV.

Var. 2

Music for Variation 2, measure 1. The key signature is one flat. The pattern consists of eighth-note pairs followed by quarter notes. Fingerings: 1, 2, 1, 3, 1, 4, 1, 4, 1, 4, 1, 4.

Continuation of Variation 2, measures 2-6. The key signature is one flat. The pattern consists of eighth-note pairs followed by quarter notes. Fingerings: V, VII, V, VI, V, V, IV.

Var. 3

Music for Variation 3, measure 1. The key signature is one flat. The pattern consists of eighth-note pairs followed by quarter notes. Fingerings: 1, 2, 1, 3, 1, 4, 1, 4, 1, 4.

Continuation of Variation 3, measures 2-6. The key signature is one flat. The pattern consists of eighth-note pairs followed by quarter notes. Fingerings: V, VII, V, VI, V, IV.

Var. 4

Music for Variation 4, measure 1. The key signature is one flat. The pattern consists of eighth-note pairs followed by quarter notes. Fingerings: 1, 2, 1, 3, 1, 4, 1, 4, 1, 4.

Continuation of Variation 4, measures 2-6. The key signature is one flat. The pattern consists of eighth-note pairs followed by quarter notes. Fingerings: II, V, VII.

Final continuation of Variation 4, measures 7-10. The key signature is one flat. The pattern consists of eighth-note pairs followed by quarter notes. Fingerings: V, VI, V, IV.

Second and First Fingers

Sheet music for Second and First Fingers exercise. The first line shows a continuous sequence of notes from II to I. Subsequent variations show different patterns:

- Var. 1:** Measures in 4/4. Fingerings: III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, VII, IX, VII.
- Var. 2:** Measures in 6/8. Fingerings: III.
- Var. 3:** Measures in 9/8. Fingerings: IX, VII.
- Var. 4:** Measures in 9/8. Fingerings: III, IX, VII.

Second and Third Fingers

Sheet music for Second and Third Fingers exercise. The first line shows a continuous sequence of notes from II to I. Subsequent variations show different patterns:

- Var. 1:** Measures in 4/4. Fingerings: II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VI, V, IV, III, II, I.
- Var. 2:** Measures in 6/8. Fingerings: II, I, II, VII, VI, VII, VI.
- Var. 3:** Measures in 9/8. Fingerings: II, VII, VI.
- Var. 4:** Measures in 9/8. Fingerings: II.
- Variation:** Measures in 8/8. Fingerings: VII, VI.

Second and Fourth Fingers

Var. 1

Var. 2

Var. 3

Var. 4

Third and First Fingers

Sheet music for Third and First Fingers exercise. The music is in G major (two sharps) and consists of five staves. The first staff shows a continuous sequence of notes from IV to I. Subsequent staves show variations (Var. 1, Var. 2, Var. 3, Var. 4) of this pattern, each with different fingerings indicated by numbers below the notes. The variations involve different note groupings and fingerings, such as 'IV' over a group of notes or 'X' over a single note.

Third and Second Fingers

Sheet music for Third and Second Fingers exercise. The music is in G major (two sharps) and consists of five staves. The first staff shows a continuous sequence of notes from III to I. Subsequent staves show variations (Var. 1, Var. 2, Var. 3, Var. 4) of this pattern, each with different fingerings indicated by numbers below the notes. The variations involve different note groupings and fingerings, such as 'III' over a group of notes or 'IX' over a single note.

Third and Fourth Fingers

The first staff shows a continuous sequence of notes from II to I. Subsequent staves (Var. 1 through Var. 4) show variations of this pattern, each starting at a different note and using a different combination of 3 and 4. The last staff begins with VII and ends with VI.

Fourth and First Fingers

The first staff shows a sequence of notes from V to I. Subsequent staves (Var. 1 through Var. 4) show variations of this pattern, each starting at a different note and using a different combination of 4 and 1. The last staff begins with V and ends with VII.

Fourth and Second Fingers

The sheet music consists of five staves of musical notation for the violin. The first staff is a continuous line of notes with fingerings: IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, VII, VI, V, IV, III, II, I. The second staff is labeled 'Var. 1' and shows two measures of eighth-note patterns with fingerings 4, 2, 4 and 2, 4. The third staff is labeled 'Var. 2' and shows a measure of sixteenth-note patterns with fingerings 4, 2, 4. The fourth staff is labeled 'Var. 3' and shows a measure of eighth-note patterns with fingerings 4, 2. The fifth staff is labeled 'Var. 4' and shows a measure of eighth-note patterns with fingerings 4, 2.

Fourth and Third Fingers

The sheet music consists of five staves of musical notation for the violin. The first staff is a continuous line of notes with fingerings: III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, VII, VI, V, IV, III, II, I. The second staff is labeled 'Var. 1' and shows two measures of eighth-note patterns with fingerings 4, 3, 4 and 3, 4. The third staff is labeled 'Var. 2' and shows a measure of sixteenth-note patterns with fingerings 4, 3. The fourth staff is labeled 'Var. 3' and shows a measure of eighth-note patterns with fingerings 4, 3. The fifth staff is labeled 'Var. 4' and shows a measure of eighth-note patterns with fingerings 4, 3.

These exercises have been placed purposely on the D String to shape the hand and arm to the more awkward part of the instrument, but they should be worked out on the other three especially on the E String, as much of the passage work in the higher positions is written for this string.

Shifting Exercises in Thirds

★ Place the fingers on both notes, but sound only the black notes.

★ Place the fingers on both notes, but sound only the black notes.

Lento II III IV V VI VII VIII

VII VI V IV III II I

Var. 1 II I II VIII VII VII

Var. 2 II VIII VII

Var. 3 II VIII VII

Var. 4 II VIII VII

II III IV V VI VII

VI V IV III II I

Var. 1 II I II VII VI VII VI

Var. 2 II VII VI

Var. 3 II VII VI

Var. 4 II VII VI

II III IV V VI VII VIII

VII VI V IV III II I

Var. 1 Var. 2

II I II VIII VII VIII VII

Var. 3 Var. 4

II VIII VII

VIII VII

II VIII VII

III IV V VI VII VIII IX

VII VI V IV III II I

Var. 1 Var. 2

III I III IX VII IX VII

Var. 3 Var. 4

III IX VII

IX VII

II IX VII

Sixths

Both fingers to be placed simultaneously.

II III IV V VI VII VIII

VIII VII VII VII II VIII VII VII

Var. 1 Var. 2

II VIII VII VII

Var. 3

II VIII VII VII

Var. 4

II III IV V VI VII

VI V IV III II I

Var. 1

II VII VI VII VI

Var. 2

II VII VI VII VI

Var. 3

II VI VII VI VII

Var. 4

II VII VI VII

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II III IV V VI

VII VI V IV III II I

Var. 1 II I II

VI VII VI VI V VI V

Var. 2 II

VI VII VI VI V

Var. 3 II

VI VII VI VI V

Var. 4 II

VI VII VI VI V

III IV V VI VII VIII IX

VII VI V IV III II I

Var. 1
Var. 2
Var. 3
Var. 4

II III IV V VI VII VIII

VII VI V IV III II I

Var. 1
Var. 2
Var. 3
Var. 4

18

Fourths

II III IV V VI VII VIII VII VI V IV III II I

Var. 1 II I II VIII VII VIII VII

Var. 2 II VIII VII

Var. 3 II VII

Var. 4 II VIII VII

II III IV V VI VII VI V IV III II I

Var. 1 II I II VII VI VI VII VI

Var. 2 II VII VI VI

Var. 3 II VII VI VI

Var. 4 II

VII VI

II III IV V VI VII VI V IV III II I

Var. 1

VI VII VI VI VI V VI V

Var. 2

VI VII VI VI VI V VI V

Var. 3

VI VII VI VI VI V VI V

Var. 4

VI VII VI VI VI V VI V

II VII

VII

VII

The image shows a page from J.S. Bach's "The Well-Tempered Clavier". It contains 24 variations of a single melodic line, each with a different harmonic progression indicated by Roman numerals above the notes. The variations are arranged in four columns of six. The first column includes Variations 1, 2, 3, and 4. The second column includes Variations 5, 6, 7, and 8. The third column includes Variations 9, 10, 11, and 12. The fourth column includes Variations 13, 14, 15, and 16. The music is written in common time with a treble clef. The notes are primarily eighth and sixteenth notes, with some sixteenth-note patterns. The harmonic progressions are complex, often involving multiple chords per measure. The page number 24 is visible at the top right.

II III IV V VI VII VIII VII VI V IV III II I

Var. 1 Var. 2 Var. 3 Var. 4

II I II VIII VII VIII VII

VIII VII

III IV V VI VII VIII IX VII VI V IV III II I

Var. 1 Var. 2 Var. 3 Var. 4

III I III IX VII IX VII

IX VII

IV V VI VII VIII IX X VII VI V IV III II I

Var. 1 Var. 2 Var. 3 Var. 4

IV I IV X VII X VII

X VII

Shifts in Octaves

23

The first section of the page contains six staves of violin music. The top staff shows a continuous sequence of eighth-note pairs across eight octaves, labeled II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, VII, VI, V, IV, III, II, I. Below this are five variations (Var. 1 through Var. 4) and a fifth variation (Var. 5) in 2/8 time. Variations 1, 2, and 5 show different fingerings for the same notes, while Variations 3 and 4 show more complex patterns involving multiple fingers per note.

For most violinists the playing of "fingered octaves" entails a stretching back of the first and second fingers. Therefore the positions in the following exercises are determined by the upper note, and are marked accordingly,

The second section of the page contains ten staves of violin music. The top staff shows a continuous sequence of eighth-note pairs across nine octaves, labeled II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, VIII, VII, VI, V, IV, III, II. Below this are nine variations (Var. 1 through Var. 9) and a tenth variation (Var. 10) in 2/8 time. Each variation includes fingerings and position markings (e.g., 1, 2, 3, 4) to guide the performer through the fingered octaves.

