

Practice Suggestions for Scales and Arpeggios

The practice of scales need never be monotonous! Bowings and rhythms may be combined in dozens of different ways in the practice of scales and arpeggios. The bowings and rhythmic variants shown here may be applied to the fast passage work in the violinist's repertoire to develop and improve evenness, clarity, agility, speed and intonation. Only a few basic bowings and rhythms are suggested here. The more notes played in one bow, the faster the tempo must be, but never at the expense of accurate intonation. Imaginative combinations of these examples starting on both down-bow and up-bow will produce endless variety.

The scales and seven arpeggio routine found in this book are based on the scale systems of Otokar Sevcik and Carl Flesch. The upper fingerings in the scales and arpeggios have been passed down through several generations of teachers and students from the famous Belgian violinist, Eugène Ysaÿe. In Ysaÿe's system, the bow crosses the strings first, then the left hand shifts on the E string. In the lower fingerings, the first shift occurs on the D or A string. So that the bow arm leads smoothly to the new string, open strings are usually used on the ascending scale and fourth fingers on the descending. There are numerous ways to play scales, arpeggios and double-stops, however, and teachers and students should feel free to employ various fingering systems. Each practice suggestion is shown in the key of G and should be transposed into all keys.

Scales

1. Slurs

6. Left Hand Acceleration

Musical score for exercise 6, 'Left Hand Acceleration'. It consists of six staves of music in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The piece begins with a steady eighth-note pattern that gradually accelerates. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6. Slurs are used to group notes, and there are several triplet markings (3) over groups of notes. The final measure of the exercise is marked with a double bar line.

Arpeggios

7. Forwards and Backwards - play with or without slurs

Musical score for exercise 7, 'Arpeggios Forwards and Backwards'. It consists of five staves of music in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 6/8 time signature. The exercise focuses on arpeggiated chords, moving both upwards and downwards. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4. Some notes are marked with a flat (b). The piece concludes with a wavy line indicating the end of the exercise.

8. 3 + 1

Musical score for exercise 8, '3 + 1'. It consists of two staves of music in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The exercise features a '3 + 1' rhythmic pattern, where a group of three notes is followed by a single note. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4. The piece concludes with a wavy line indicating the end of the exercise.