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## STANDARD BOWING TERMS

**abgesetzt, abgesetzt**, (G.) Separated; often used together with or as a synonym for *abgestossen*, the usual German term for *staccato* (in the generic sense of the term, not the particular type of bowing). Historically, Quantz uses *abgesetzt* to mean lifting the bow from the string and replacing it. He states that the bow is lifted and replaced on the string in such passages as:

- 1) in syncopated rhythms, in which the bow is lifted after the syncopated note to give a lively expression to the rhythm



- 2) after the note preceding an appoggiatura, for greater clarity;
- 3) in rhythmic patterns in which two down-bows are used in succession, such as



or



and

- 4) in passages marked with dashes (*Strichelchen*) or labeled *staccato*, as long as the notes are not too fast. Eighth notes in *allegro* movements and sixteenth notes in *allegretto* tempo are considered too fast for lifted bows; Quantz says that the bow should not leave the string when playing them, as they will

sound hacked or whipped. Separation (*Absatz*) is used in the pattern



in *allegro*, with successive up-bows as indicated, but the bow is *not* lifted. A succession of lifted up-and-down-bows may be found only in passages of moderate speed. (Quantz, *Versuch einer Anweisung die Flute traversière zu spielen*, 1752). By 1802 when Koch's dictionary was published, *abgesetzt* was simply a synonym for *abgestossen*. (Koch, *Musikalisches Lexikon*, 1802). The term is used by other writers to indicate merely a separation between notes, without any implications of the degree or means of separation.

See *abgestossen*, *détaché*, *piqué*, *reprise d'archet*, *spiccato*, *staccato*, and *stoccato*.

**abgezucht** (G.) An eighteenth century term listed by Walther as a synonym for *détaché*. (Walther, *Musikalisches Lexikon*, 1732). Obsolete.

**above fingers** (abbreviated AF). A 20<sup>th</sup> century term used for cello and bass to indicate a special bow placement on the string between the left hand fingers and the nut. This produces a tiny, distant and muted tonal effect.

**absetzen** (G.) To play with separated bow-strokes. See *abgesetzt*.

**abgestossen** (G.) *Staccato* (in the generic musical sense); the normal term in German for musical *staccato*. *Gestossen* is also occasionally used in this sense. (Mozart, *Gründliche Violinschule*, 1756). The non-musical meaning of the root of these terms in fencing is similar to that of the Italian term *stoccata*: *stossen*, to thrust, stab, or strike; *stoccata*, a rapier-thrust. Thus the implication, when these terms were first used as technical terms in music, may have been a vigorous type of separation. In time, the meaning came to mean *staccato*, without specifying the means of separation. See *détaché*, *gestossen*, *staccato*, *stoccato*, and *stabb*.

**abstossen** (G.) To play staccato. See *abgestossen*, *détaché*, *staccato*.

**Abstrich** (G.) See *down-bow*.