Loops

This is an extremely powerful practice method in which you play groups of notes forwards and backwards, making 'loops' of notes that are played round and round in a circle. There can be three notes in a loop or as many as seven or more. For example, playing in groups of five notes:

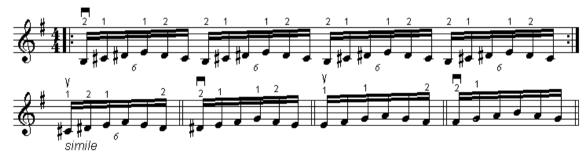
- Play the first five notes in their correct order and then play backwards, in reverse order, to the beginning again. In other words play notes 1–2–3–4–5, followed by 4–3–2.
- Repeat the loop continuously, learning how to play it in tune, with an even tone, and even rhythm.
- Then do the same beginning on the second note of the passage, and so on to the end.

This can be hard work, but just a few minutes spent playing loops usually brings instantaneous and dramatic improvement.

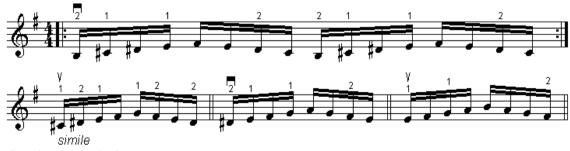




• Four notes forward, two notes back:



• Five notes forward, three notes back:



• Practise also in rhythms:





Example





Example

- Miss out any groups of notes that do not need loop practice.
- Three notes forward, one note back:

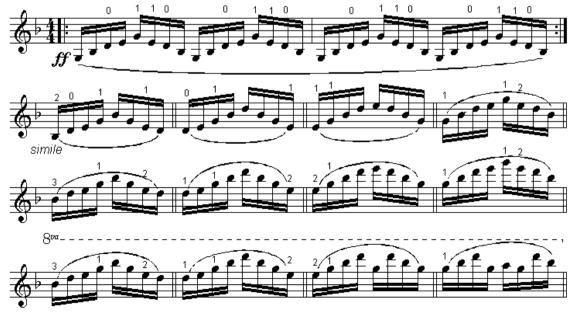


• Four notes forward, two notes back:





• Five notes forward, three notes back:



Next month's BASICS looks at