



- 2 Without releasing the pressure, very slowly pull and push the string from side to side. Do this entirely silently – do not lose hold of the string, letting it snap back.
- 3 Having moved the string from side to side a few times stop the bow on the string, still without releasing the pressure.
- 4 Then play the martelé with a fast–slow bow speed. Release some of the pressure the instant the bow begins to move: the stroke should begin with a ‘click’ not a scratch.
- 5 Stop the bow on the string at the end of the stroke and repeat the process for the next note.

### Releasing between strokes

Martelé requires a firm bow hold at the beginning of the stroke, but during the martelé the hand can release. Tension and awkwardness may result if the hand remains ‘fixed’ and ‘gripping’ the bow during and between the strokes.

Symphonie espagnole, op. 21, Lalo  
First movement

Example 2

*ff pesante*

- Practise the moments of release into the martelé by pausing between strokes. Completely release the bow, hand and fingers during the pause.

Rest the bow lightly on the string. Release completely the hand and fingers.

*simile*

### Vibrato accents

In slow to medium martelé and at other times when the bow makes an accent, it is usual to mirror this in the left hand with a vibrato that is fast–slow and wide–narrow.

**Bow** Fast–slow, heavy–light  
**Vibrato** Fast–slow, wide–narrow

Apart from the musical result, this produces a feeling of the hands working together, rather than the unnatural feeling of combining an even-speed vibrato with fast–slow bow speed.

- Practising by exaggeration, make the vibrato accent greater than the bow accent by playing each note with a very fast–slow and wide–narrow vibrato.

Violin Concerto no. 2 in D minor, op. 22, Wieniawski  
First movement

Example 3

*f marc. e rubato*

- On each note marked ‘vib’, make a fast–slow and wide–narrow vibrato. Keep the bow speed and pressure almost even, creating most of the accent with the vibrato not the bow:

*vib vib vib vib sim.*