One line at a time

One of the most helpful first steps in practising any passage of double stops is to play one string at a time while fingering both strings.

- Finger both notes of each double stop as written, but bow only one string at a time. Practise each line separately until both are comfortably in tune.

Example

- Bow only the lower of the two strings. The x-notes show the notes on the upper string that you finger without playing them:

Example

- Bow only the upper string while silently fingering the notes on the lower string:

Example

- In many passages it is helpful to select certain notes from the upper and lower line. In this example play only the A#'s:

Example

42. Études ou caprices, Kreutzer
Ko. 39

Violin Concerto no. 1 in G minor, op. 25, Bruch
Third movement

Polonaise Brillante, op. 21, Wieniawski

f energico largamente
• Play only the G-sharp's, and then play only the B's and the E:

![Musical notation image]

Violin Concerto no. 1 in G minor, op. 25, Bruch
Third movement

• Play only the second finger:

![Musical notation image]

Example

If there is anything unusual or awkward in the passage – in this example the wide space between A-flat and B-flat could disturb the intonation – first use an ordinary fingering to find exactly the right tuning:

1. Play each line separately, using a normal, convenient fingering. Use this as a model for 2.

2. Finger all the notes with the proper fingering, but bow only one string at a time.

Lower line only, easy fingering

![Musical notation image]

Lower line only, stopping both notes

![Musical notation image]

Upper line only, easy fingering

![Musical notation image]

Upper line only, stopping both notes

![Musical notation image]

Next month’s BASICS looks at the fourth finger.