BASICS

Tuning the hand (2)

This simple exercise provides an easy way to improve double stops quickly. Use it either as a powerful building exercise, or as part of your regular warm-up routine.

Thinking of patterns of tones and semitones in the finger spacing applies as much to double stops as to single note patterns. It is very helpful for intonation and agility if you concentrate on one pattern at a time – tone—tone—semitone, tone—tone—tone etc., and practise in one go all the double stops created by that pattern. After concentrating on each finger pattern, all the double stops become mentally much clearer and therefore less daunting.

The five most common and useful patterns to practise are:

Semitone-tone (Example 1)

Tone-semitone-tone (Example 2)

Tone-tone (Example 3)

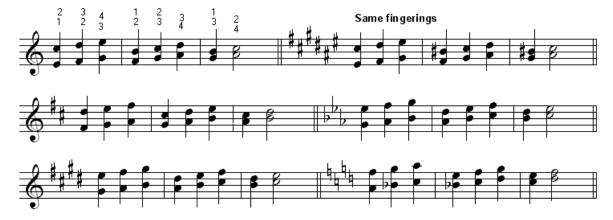
Semitone-tone-semitone (Example 4)

Tone-tone-semitone (Example 5)

Try playing a scale (or other passage) in double stops. Then practise the following tone—semitone patterns for ten minutes, and then play the scale again. You may find that it has improved far more than if you had practised the scale itself for ten minutes.

Semitone-tone-tone

The exercise has been written out six times, each time a semitone higher. Continue higher up the string if possible:



Play the same pattern on the other strings, continuing up to fourth position or higher:



Example

BASICS

Another approach is to play all the different intervals across the strings, moving up a semitone at a time:

Tone-semitone-tone

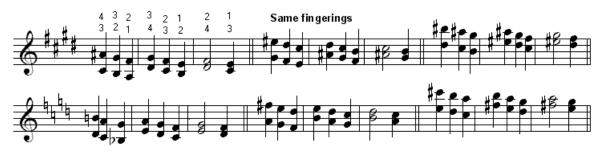
Example _



Play the patterns in reverse:

Tone-tone-tone

Example



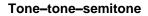
Or take one interval at a time and play it across the strings:



Example



After playing slowly you may wish to make up variations such as the following:



Example _{In}

