
BASICS

While clearly better than vibrating too sharp, this is still not a vibrato that you can use very often. It may sound too ‘wobbly’ because the lower pitch of the rocking movement is as audible as the pitch of the principal note. This is because the rhythm of the forwards-and-backwards vibrato movement is even rather than a dotted movement – see Group 3.

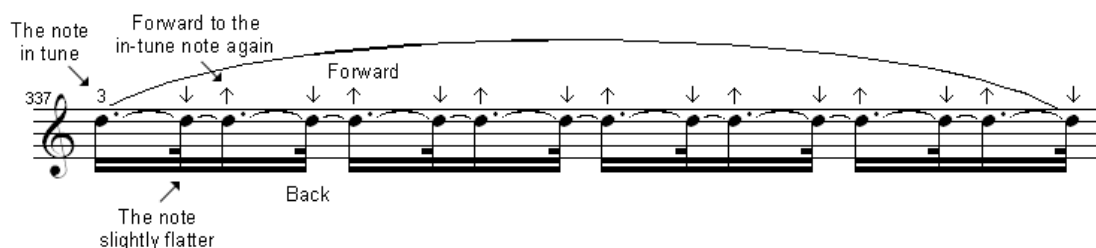
There is another reason why this ‘even’ vibrato may cause problems: if the rocking movement is equal up and down, it may be difficult to play a fast vibrato. Clapping provides a perfect model:

- With your hands staying quite close together, clap lightly and quickly. The movement is ‘in–in–in–in’. It is easy to do this very fast.
- Again keeping your hands quite close together, move the hands away from each other in a sort of ‘anti-clapping’ movement. The movement is ‘out–out–out–out’, which again is very easy to do fast.
- But it is very difficult to make both an active movement in, and an active movement out, i.e. ‘in–out–in–out’, very fast.

In the same way, the feeling of the movement of vibrato is one of ‘forward–forward–forward–forward’, not one of ‘forward–back–forward–back’. This is achieved with the dotted motion illustrated in the next group.

Group 3

In this vibrato, there is a dotted movement between the principal note, and the same note fractionally flattened. You can still hear the lower pitch clearly:



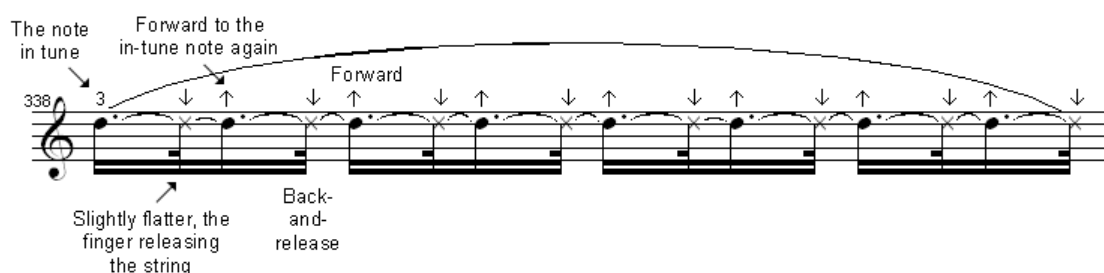
Example 3

This type of vibrato ‘throbs’. It ‘pulses’ clearly, and this gives it a lot of energy. However, you do not always want to hear these ‘pings’ in the vibrato. There are many vibrato shades of colour where all you want to hear is a general sweetness, rather than a quality of ‘ping–ping–ping–ping’.

Because of the audible, lower pitch of the vibrato, this type of throbbing, dotted-rhythm vibrato may sometimes sound too thick, or too wide.

Group 4

In this vibrato there is also a dotted movement, but now the lower pitch is almost (or completely) inaudible, and is represented here by an x-note:



Example 4

This ends up sounding like one note repeated, i.e. D–D–D–D–D–D–D–D, rather than the ‘quarter-tone trill’ illustrated in Example 1.