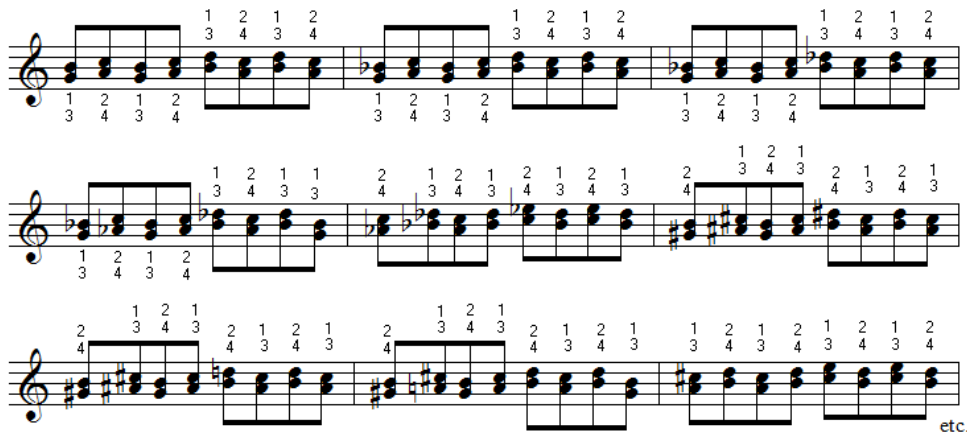

BASICS

Double-stop practice sequence

Due to growing up in a household with a concert-pianist father, one of the theme tunes of my childhood was this piano exercise by Rafael Joseffy. It repeats a semitone up each time through the whole octave:



As a college student I adapted this sequence for the violin, and it has remained a favourite element of warming up, and a specific practice method, ever since:



Use overlapping bowing:



Also slur with one or two bows to a bar, and play separate bows.

As a general double-stop shifting exercise, you can cycle all the way through the scale; or play just a few steps in different places on the fingerboard. When practising a piece with lots of thirds in it, such as the Paganini D major Concerto, practise the sequence before practising the passage itself:



Practise the thirds sequence starting on the last bar of the example above.

BASICS

The sequence works very well in tenths:

Three staves of musical notation showing a sequence of tenths. The first staff starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4-measure phrase. The second and third staves continue the sequence with various accidentals (flats and naturals) and end with a double bar line and the word "etc." below the staff.

There is always less work needed to polish this famous passage from the Bruch concerto after practising the sequence as a preparatory exercise:

A single staff of musical notation showing a passage from the Bruch concerto. It features a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4-measure phrase. The notation includes various accidentals and a final measure with a fermata. The word "etc." is written below the staff.

Begin the tenths sequence on the D-F# and continue up beyond the range of the passage:

A single staff of musical notation showing the tenths sequence extended beyond the range of the previous passage. It starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4-measure phrase. The notation includes various accidentals and a final measure with a fermata. The word "etc." is written below the staff.

One of the challenges of playing sixths is the lateral movement of the fingers across the strings. After playing the sequence in sixths in one position, a normal passage of sixths feels much easier:

Three staves of musical notation showing a sequence of sixths. The first staff starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4-measure phrase. The second and third staves continue the sequence with various accidentals and a final measure with a fermata. The word "etc." is written below the staff.

The sequence is also useful in single notes as a warming-up exercise for intonation. Play through the whole cycle up one string:

BASICS

Slow

The image shows three staves of musical notation for a piano exercise. The first staff is marked "Slow" and contains four measures of music. The notes are: G2, A2, B2, C3, B2, A2, G2. The second staff contains four measures: G2, A2, B2, C3, B2, A2, G2; G2, A2, B2, C3, B2, A2, G2; G2, A2, B2, C3, B2, A2, G2; G2, A2, B2, C3, B2, A2, G2. The third staff contains four measures: G2, A2, B2, C3, B2, A2, G2; G2, A2, B2, C3, B2, A2, G2; G2, A2, B2, C3, B2, A2, G2; G2, A2, B2, C3, B2, A2, G2. The third staff ends with "etc.".