

Strings 3 Bowings Handout - Viola

Play all of these excercises with the metronome set to 80.

1. Zig-zag stroke: Use a slow, heavy down bow on the long note, then give more bow distance to the ups than the downs so you can return to the frog by the end of the 8th notes.

2. Use a true 2/3 to 1/3 ratio of the bow. Divide the bow length very specifically! Count 8th notes.

3. Fortepiano - attack strongly then drop immediately to *piano*. Control your bow speed and weight.

4. Lift and reset - use the entire bow for the long note. Lift and reset near the frog for the triplet.

5. Always make sure to match the SOUND of the articulation. Slurred staccatos/hooks. Lines are called Louré.

6. Dynamics against the grain. Play very slowly. Save bow, vary bow weight, especially at the tip.

7. Multiple down bows. Start each one at the frog. Use a lot of energy to get a big sound!

ff

8. Dotted 8ths & 16ths. Use very little bow on the 16ths. Make sure you subdivide (count 16ths) 1 E & a.

9. Chain pickups. Be careful (and smart!) about how much bow to use. Subdivide 16ths, 1 E & a. COUNT!

10. Double ups. Play the quarter note on the string. Start the ups from the string, but when you play very fast, the ups may come off the string. Start at $m=80$, but increase to $m=100$ and $m=120$. Try even faster!

11. Galloping rhythm - use small strokes at the middle. Listen for the 8ths to stop cleanly.

12. Sautillé is tiny strokes near the balance point. Fast enough, the bow will bounce itself. This won't work if the tempo is too slow.