

Observe also, that the Head of the Violin must be nearly Horizontal with that Part which rests against the Breast, that the Hand may be shifted with Facility and without any Danger of dropping the Instrument.

The Tone of the Violin principally Depends upon the right Management of the Bow. The Bow is to be held at a small Distance from the Nut, between the Thumb and Fingers, the Hair being turned inward against the Back or Outside of the Thumb, in which Position it is to be held free and easy, and not stiff. The Motion is to proceed from the Joints of the Wrist and Elbow in playing quick Notes, and very little or not at all from the Joint of the Shoulder ; but in playing long Notes, where the Bow is drawn from one End of it to the other, the Joint of the Shoulder is also a little employed. The Bow must always be drawn parallel with the Bridge, (which can't be done if it is held stiff) and must be pressed upon the Strings with the Fore-finger only, and not with the whole Weight of the Hand. The best Performers are least sparing of their Bow ; and make Use of the whole of it, from the Point to that Part of it under, and even beyond their Fingers. In an Upbow the Hand is bent a little downward from the Joint of the Wrist, when the Nut of the Bow approaches the Strings, and the Wrist is immediately streightned, or the Hand rather a little bent back or upward, as soon as the Bow is began to be drawn down again.

One of the principal Beauties of the Violin is the swelling or encreasing and softening the Sound ; which is done by pressing the Bow upon the Strings with the Fore-finger more or less. In playing all long Notes the Sound should be begun soft, and gradually swelled till the Middle, and from thence gradually softened till the End. And lastly, particular Care must be taken to draw the Bow smooth from one End to the other without any Interruption or stopping in the Middle. For on this principally, and the keeping it always parallel with the Bridge, and pressing it only with the Fore-finger upon the Strings with Discretion, depends the fine Tone of the Instrument.

(C.)

C shews the 7 Orders. What I mean by an Order is a certain Number of Notes which are to be played without transposing the Hand. The first Order contains 17 Notes, and the other six Orders contain no more than sixteen.

Under the Notes of the first Order you will find their Names, and over the same Notes Figures denoting the Fingers with which they are to be stopped, and the Strings on which they are stopped.

It must be observed that between the two black Notes is the greater Semitone, and between the others is the Tone,

The Mark (o) denotes an open String.

From the first Order you are to begin to play.

'Tis necessary to place the Fingers exactly upon the Marks that belong to the Notes ; for on this depends the stopping perfectly in Tune,

After having been practised in the first Order, you must pass on to the second, and then to the third ; in which Care is to be taken that the Thumb always remain farther back than the Fore-finger ; and the more you advance in the other Orders the Thumb must be at a greater Distance till it remains almost hid under the Neck of the Violin.

It is a constant Rule to keep the Fingers as firm as possible, and not to raise them, till there is a Necessity of doing it, to place them somewhere else ; and the Observance of this Rule will very much facilitate the playing double Stops.

The fingering, indeed, requires an earnest Application, and therefore it would be most prudent to undertake it without the Use of the Bow, which you should not meddle with till you come to the 7th Example, in which will be found the necessary and proper Method of using it.

It cannot be supposed but that this Practice without the Bow is disagreeable, since it gives no Satisfaction to the Ear; but the Benefit which, in Time, will arise from it, will be a Recompence more than adequate to the Disgust it may give.

(D.)

D shews the different Ways of stopping the same Note, and discovers at the same Time, that Transposition of the Hand consists in passing from one Order to another.

As for Example.

If a Note ought to be stopped by the fourth Finger on any String whatsoever, in the first Order, and the same Note be stopped by the third Finger, it will pass into the second Order; and if by the second Finger into the third; and consequently by stopping it with the first, it enters into the fourth Order.

On the contrary, if the first Finger stopping any Note whatsoever falls under the fourth Order; by stopping the same Note with the second Finger it passes into the third; by stopping the same with the third, into the second; and finally by stopping the same with the fourth Finger it enters into the first.

This is sufficient to shew what Transposition of the Hand is. I have only now to recommend a good Execution of the whole, both in rising and falling; and great Care in conducting the Hand, as also in the placing the Fingers exactly on the Marks. With all these the Practitioner must by Degrees acquire Quickness.

(E.)

E contains several different Scales, with the Transpositions of the Hand, which ought to be made both in rising and falling. It must here be observed, that in drawing back the Hand from the 5th, 4th and 3d Order to go to the first, the Thumb cannot, for Want of Time, be replaced in its natural Position; but it is necessary it should be replaced at the second Note.

A Sharp (\sharp) raises the Note to which it is prefixed, a Semitone higher; as for Example, when a Sharp is prefixed to C, the Finger must be placed in the Middle between C and D, and so of the rest, except B and E; for when a Sharp is prefixed to either of them, the Finger must be placed upon C and F. A Flat (\flat) on the contrary renders the Note to which it is prefixed, a Semitone lower: As for Example, when a Flat is prefixed to B the Finger must be placed in the Middle between B and A, and so of the Rest except F and C; for when a Flat is prefixed to either of them the Finger must be placed upon E and B natural. This Rule concerning the Flats and Sharps is not absolutely exact; but it is the easiest and best Rule that can be given to a Learner. This Mark (\natural) takes away the Force of both the Sharp and the Flat and restores the Note before which it is placed to its natural Quality.

Example II.

In This Example there are 13 Scales, composed of the *Diatonick* and *Cromatick* Genera. Many may, perhaps, imagine that these Scales are merely *Cromatic*, as they may not know that the *Cromatic* Scale must be composed only of the greater and lesser Semitones; and that the Octave also must be divided into 12 Semitones, that is, 7 of the greater and 5 of the lesser; but the present 13 Scales being composed of Tones and the greater and lesser Semitones, and the Octave containing 2 Tones, 5 of the greater Semitones and 3 of the lesser, I call them mixt.

Essempio I.

A

B C 1^a

2^a 3^a 4^a 5^a 6^a 7^a

D

E