

1 Inventing and Copying Simple Phrases and Sounds

Whatever the standard of the pupils you are teaching, inventing and copying simple phrases and sounds is an excellent way of introducing them to the idea of playing without reading music.

- There are three stages:
- (i) You make up a simple pattern of notes or sounds.
 - (ii) The pupil copies what has just been played.
 - (iii) The pupil invents new patterns for the teacher to copy.

1 Making up a simple pattern

Choose a pattern to play for the pupil to copy afterwards. For example:

- (a) A couple of open string notes (pizzicato or arco)

Violin: Treble clef, two notes on the open strings (G4 and B4).

Viola: Alto clef, two notes on the open strings (C4 and E4).

Cello: Bass clef, two notes on the open strings (C3 and E2).

Double Bass: Bass clef, two notes on the open strings (C2 and E2).

- (b) Three different open strings (pizzicato and arco)

Violin: Treble clef, notes G4, B4, and D5.

Viola: Alto clef, notes C4, E4, and G4.

Cello: Bass clef, notes C3, E2, and G2.

Double Bass: Bass clef, notes C2, E2, and G2.

- (c) A choice of the following rhythms:
(Tap the wood of the instrument with one or more of them)

Pattern 1: Treble clef, *pp*, quarter notes G4, A4, B4, quarter notes C5, B4, A4, G4. A '3' above the first group indicates a triplet.

Pattern 2: Treble clef, *f*, quarter notes G4, A4, B4, quarter notes C5, B4, A4, G4.

Pattern 3: Treble clef, eighth notes G4, A4, B4, eighth notes C5, B4, A4, G4.

- (d) A long four-beat 'grate' note on any string or strings (press the bow so hard it makes a grating effect)

- (e) *Tremolo* on two adjacent open strings (try also *sul pont* or *sul tasto*, or on the wood of the instrument)

Violin: Treble clef, notes G4 and B4.

Viola: Alto clef, notes C4 and E4.

Cello: Bass clef, notes C3 and E2.

Double Bass: Bass clef, notes C2 and E2.

- (f) Pizzicato behind the bridge

Violin: Treble clef, notes G4, B4, D5, quarter notes C5, B4, A4, G4.

Viola: Alto clef, notes C4, E4, G4, quarter notes F4, E4, D4, C4.

Cello: Bass clef, notes C3, E2, G2, quarter notes F2, E2, D2, C2.

Double Bass: Bass clef, notes C2, E2, G2, quarter notes F2, E2, D2, C2.