Position Shaping in 1st to 7th position

Alex Ezerman

Notes:

This exercise is to train the shape of the hand in a key oriented setting.

Take great care to keep the muscles of the hand and thumb very relaxed at all times

Make sure to use the weight of the arm to hold down the strings - the thumb should be lightly detached from the neck NEVER fix intonation in the string - Always pick up the finger and adjust in the air.

Stay very aware of note names, scale degrees and interval names at all times.

Vibrato: Use vibrato to test the hand's release and the integrity of the position. Properly formed, and using weight, a slow relaxed vibrato should be possible on any interval. Incorporate vibrato work into every practice session.

For 5th, 6th and 7th positions:

Regularly check your elbow level!

Keep the thumb back and in very loose contact.

Balance and correct curve of the fingers are the keys to consistency

Practicing proceedures: This exercise may be prepared in stages - each lasting as long as necessary to work through all keys

Stage 1: Intonation definitions - Train the ear before the hand. Use tuner and drones to form specific intervals very slowly and carefully. Each interval may take several minutes.

Stage 2: Move through a single measure very slowly, aiming each finger. Repeat each change many times until consistent. Play through the entire measure sequentially several times at the end for review. 5 minutes per position.

Stage 3: Use a metronome (quarter = 60). Aim with the first beat, place finger with the next. Play through the entire key, then practice any areas of weakness. Play through the key again for review. 15 minutes

Stage 4: Play through the entire key in tempo, without and then with vibrato. Practice any weak areas. 10 minutes







