Nicolaus Laoureux

Practical Method for the Violin

Part 2

The Positions

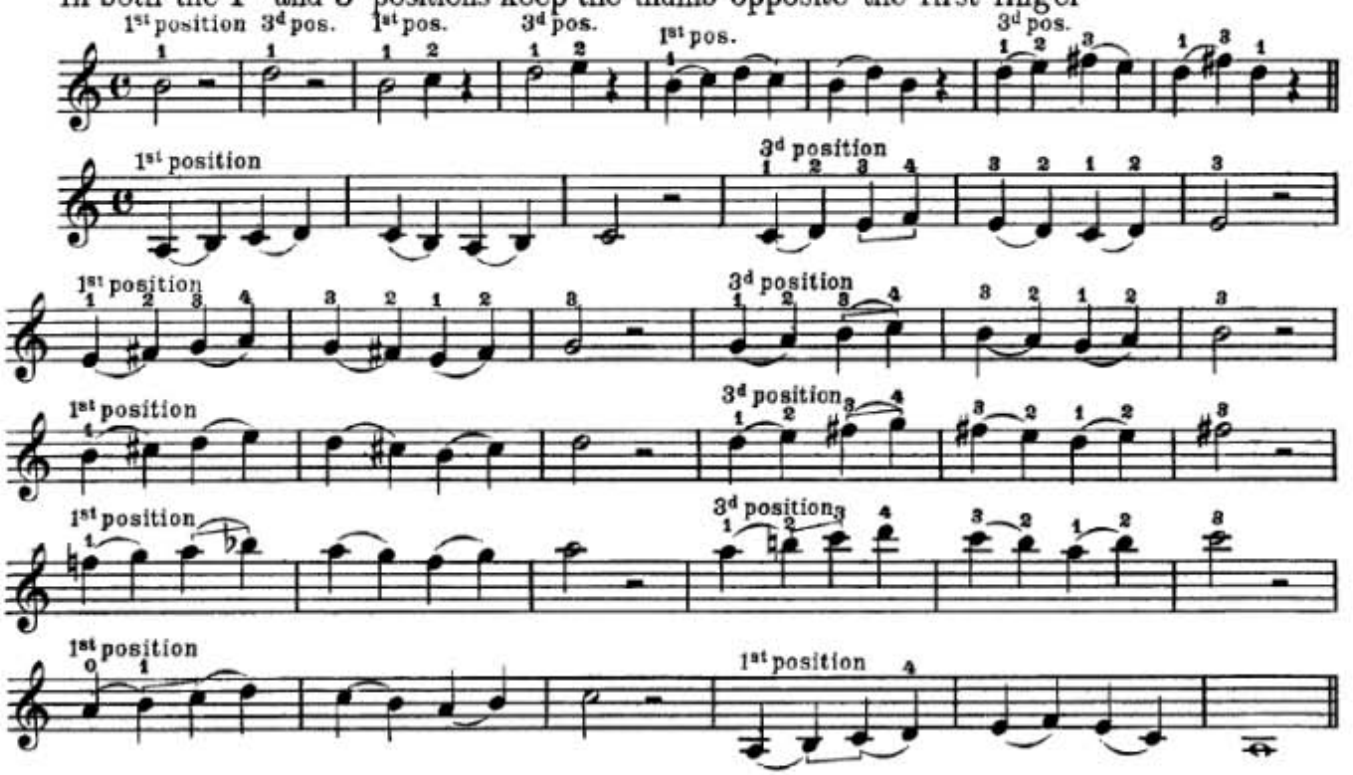
Violin "methods" generally pass from the first position to the second, from the second to the third, and so on in numerical order.

To go directly from the first to the third position seems simpler and easier. Later, the pupil will find his second position between the first and the third. Moreover, this manner of proceeding will allow us to begin, at the same time, the highly important study of the shifts. To learn the fingerings of the positions seems, at first, to be the difficult point. Yet this is only a matter of memorizing figures.

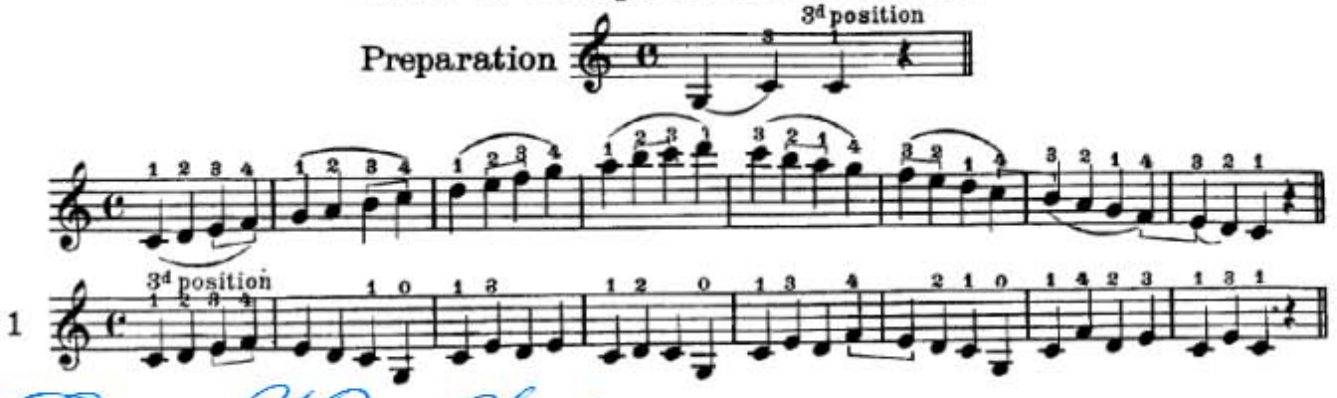
Take a pupil who already knows his positions, and give him a fairly rapid slurred passage going from one position to another. The difficulty which he will encounter in playing it will be precisely in the changes of position which we call "shifts."

To forestall this difficulty at the outset by numerous exercises in shifting, is absolutely indispensable It is important, in order to shift easily, that the pupil should hold the palm of the hand well away from the neck of the instrument, and especially avoid resting the hand against the edge of the violin when arriving at the third position. The thumb should not be bent round the bottom of the neck. This would cause a displacement of the position of the hand, and would later render the shift from the third to the fifth position very awkward.

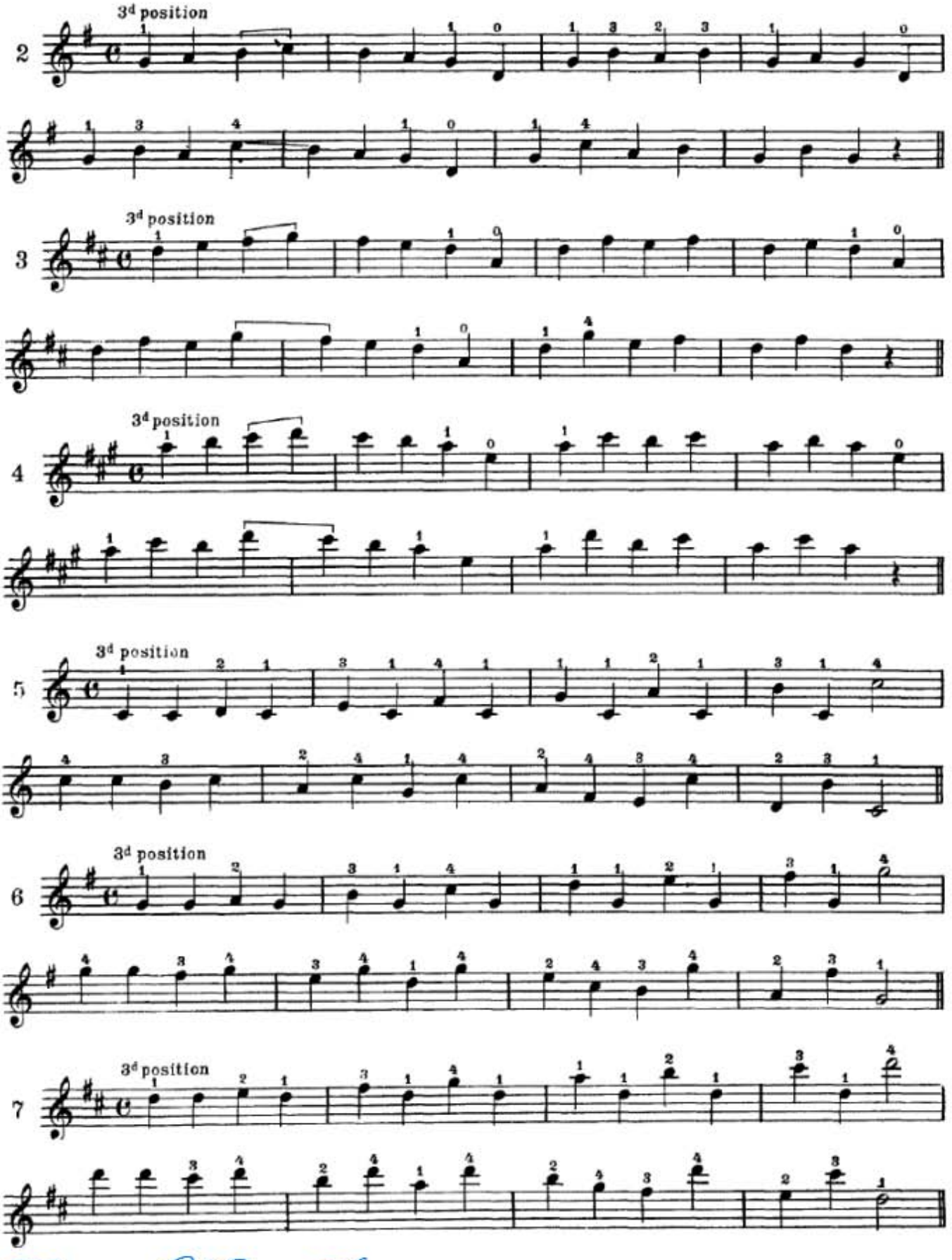
In both the 1st and 3d positions keep the thumb opposite the first finger



Scale of C major in the 3d Position



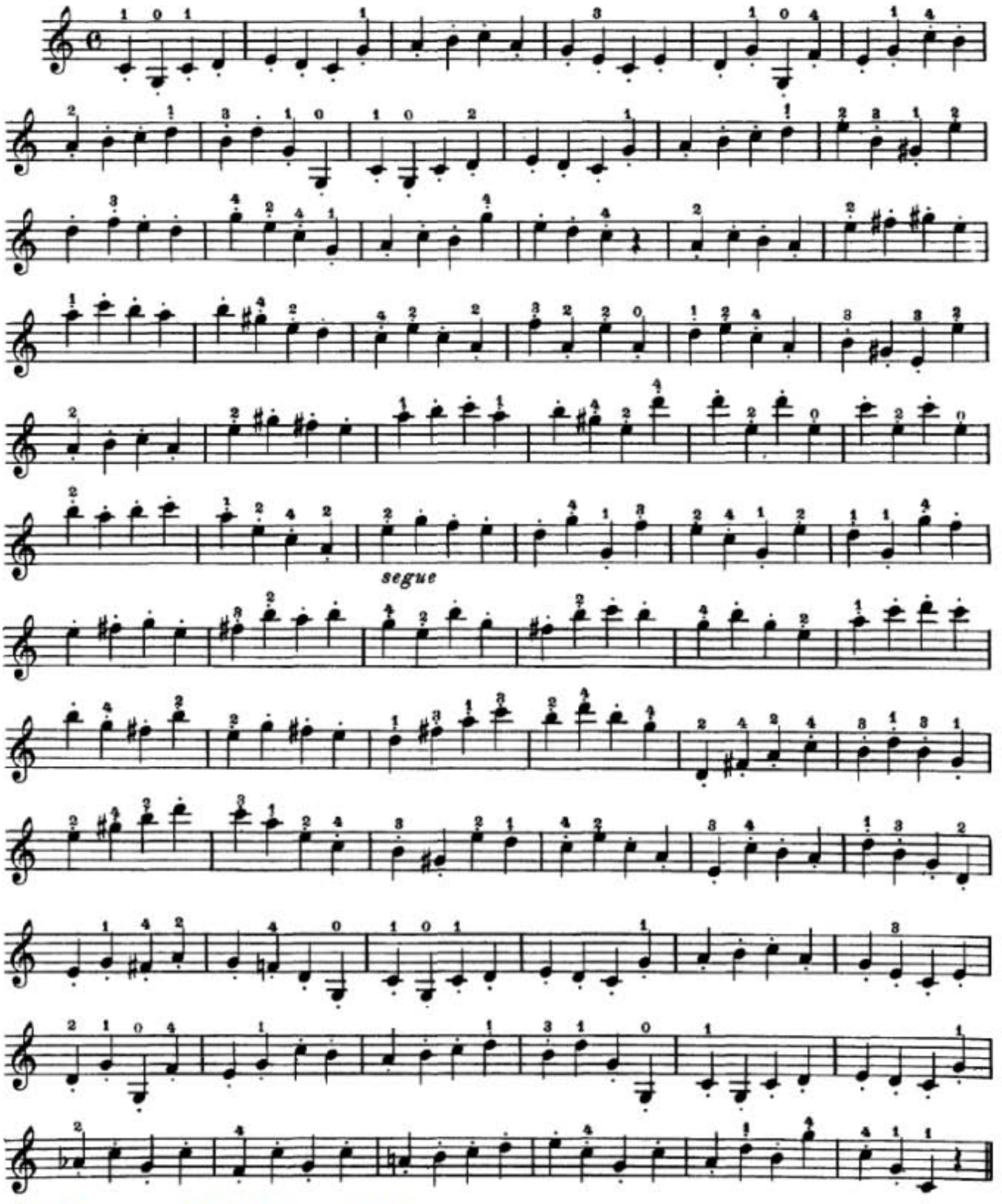
Erwin Music Studio



Erwin Music Studio

Étude in the 3ª Position

Grand détaché
Moderato

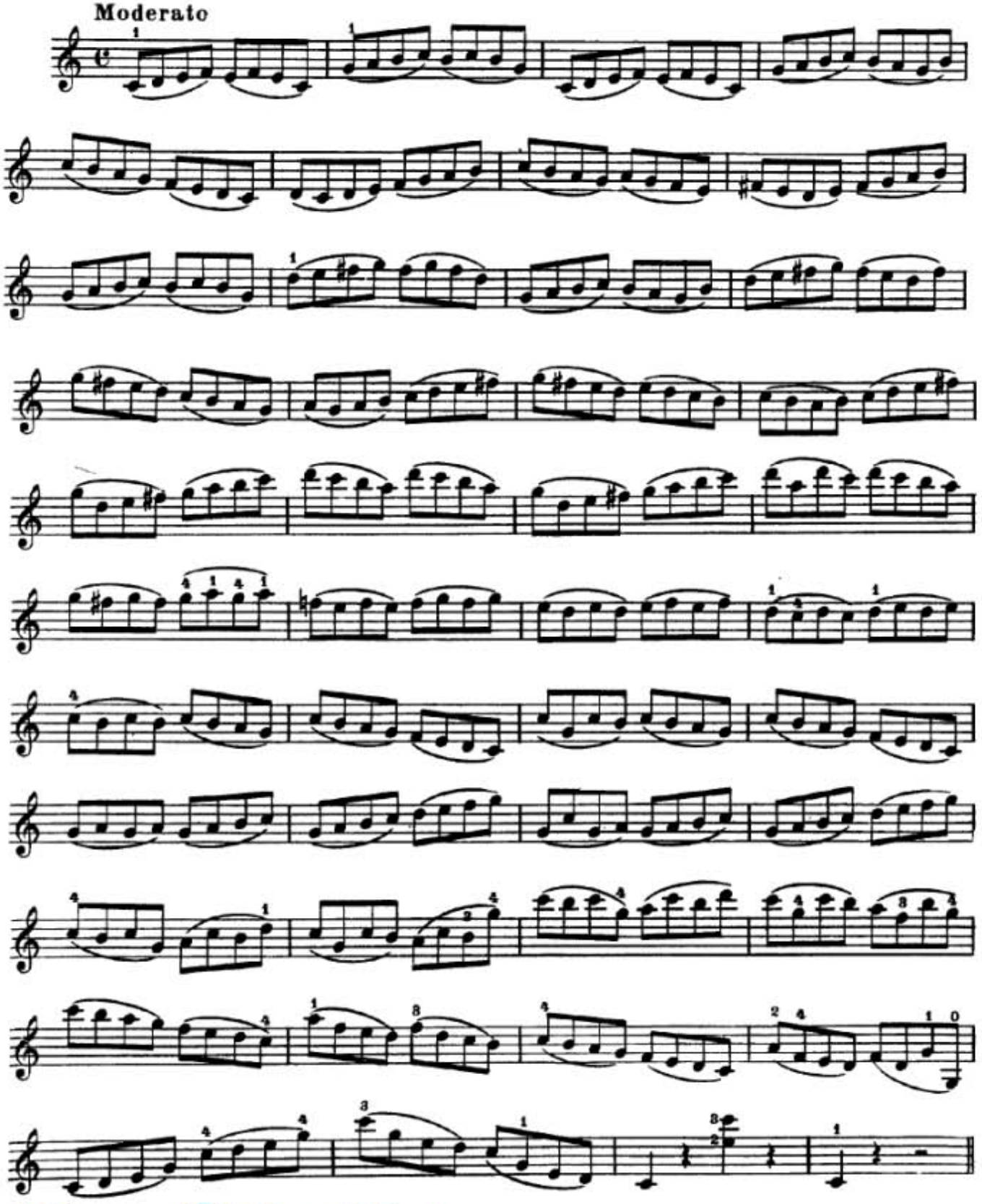


Erwin Music Studio

Exercise in the 3d Position

Use the whole bow, the fingers striking firmly.

Moderato



Erwin Music Studio

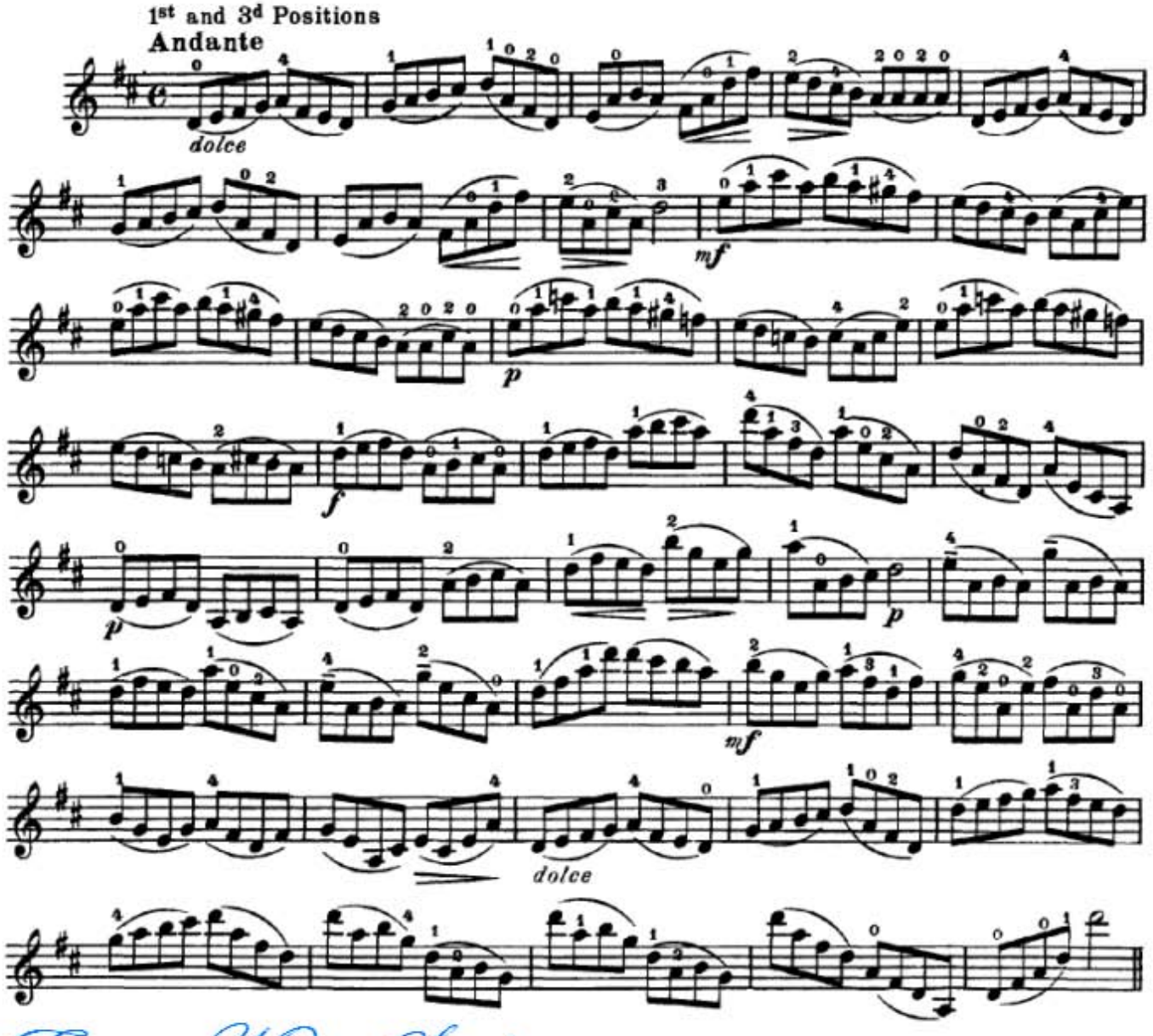
Exercise in Going from the 1st to the 3d Position

Shift with the open string. The thumb opposite the first finger. When shifting, let the hand slide lightly without pressing the neck.

ÉTUDE

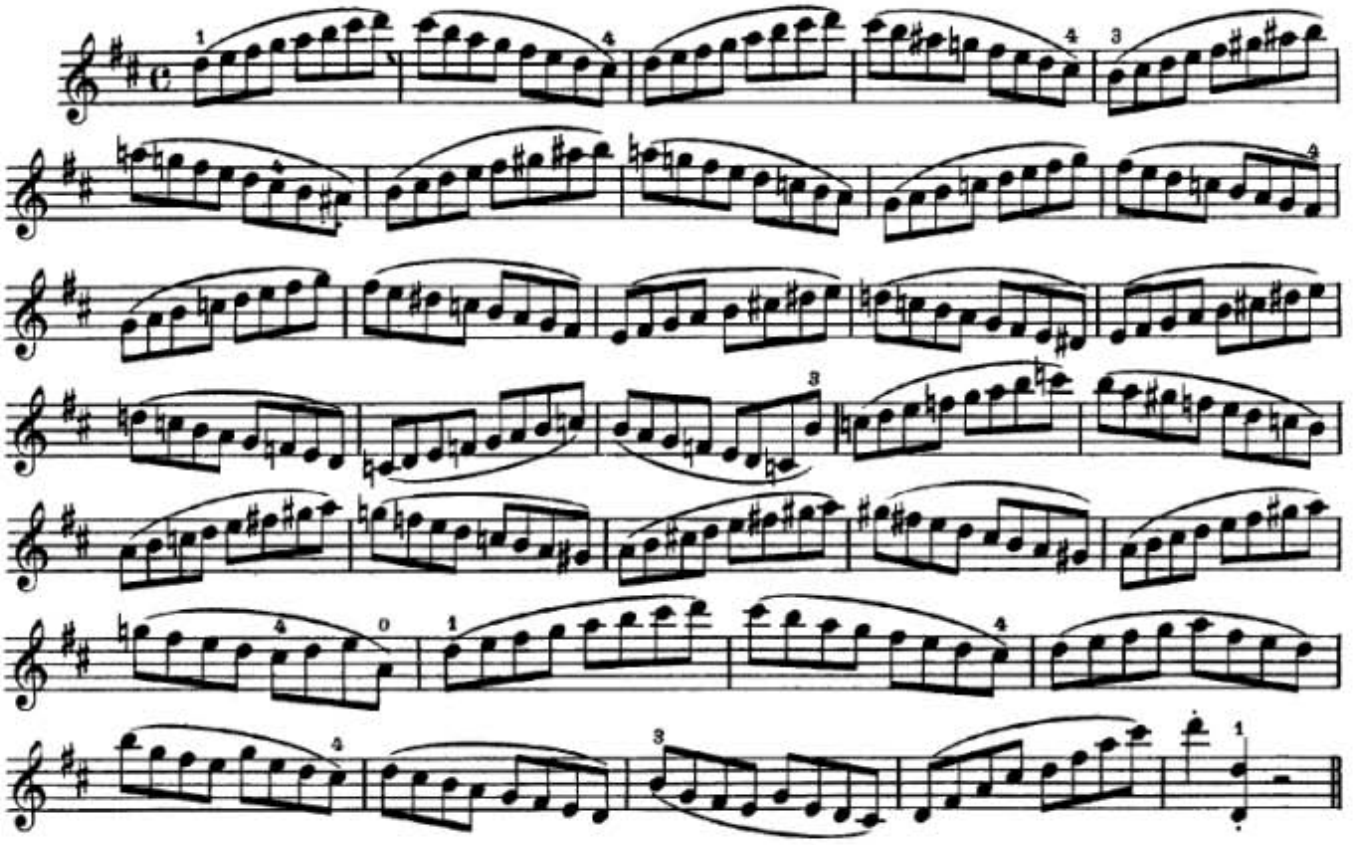
1st and 3d Positions

Andante

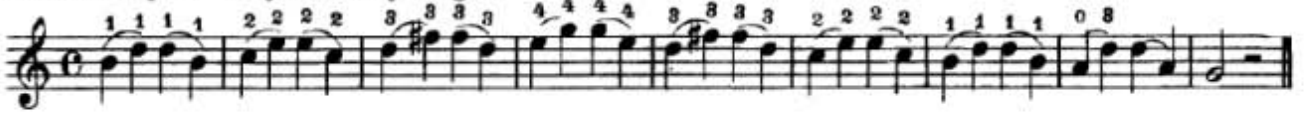


Erwin Music Studio

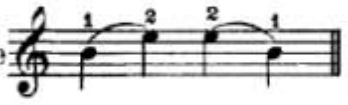
Scale-Study in the 3d Position



The pupil will have to practise the following exercises until the passage from the 1st to the 3d position becomes quite easy with any finger.



Changing the Position with Two Different Fingers

Example 

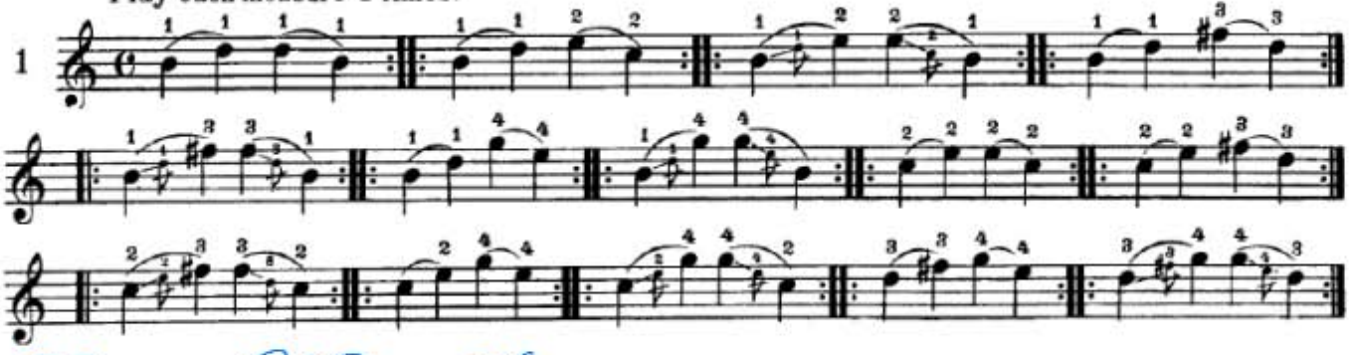
The portamento must start from the first note, i.e. the finger of that note must reach the higher position before the one of the second note touches the string.

Example

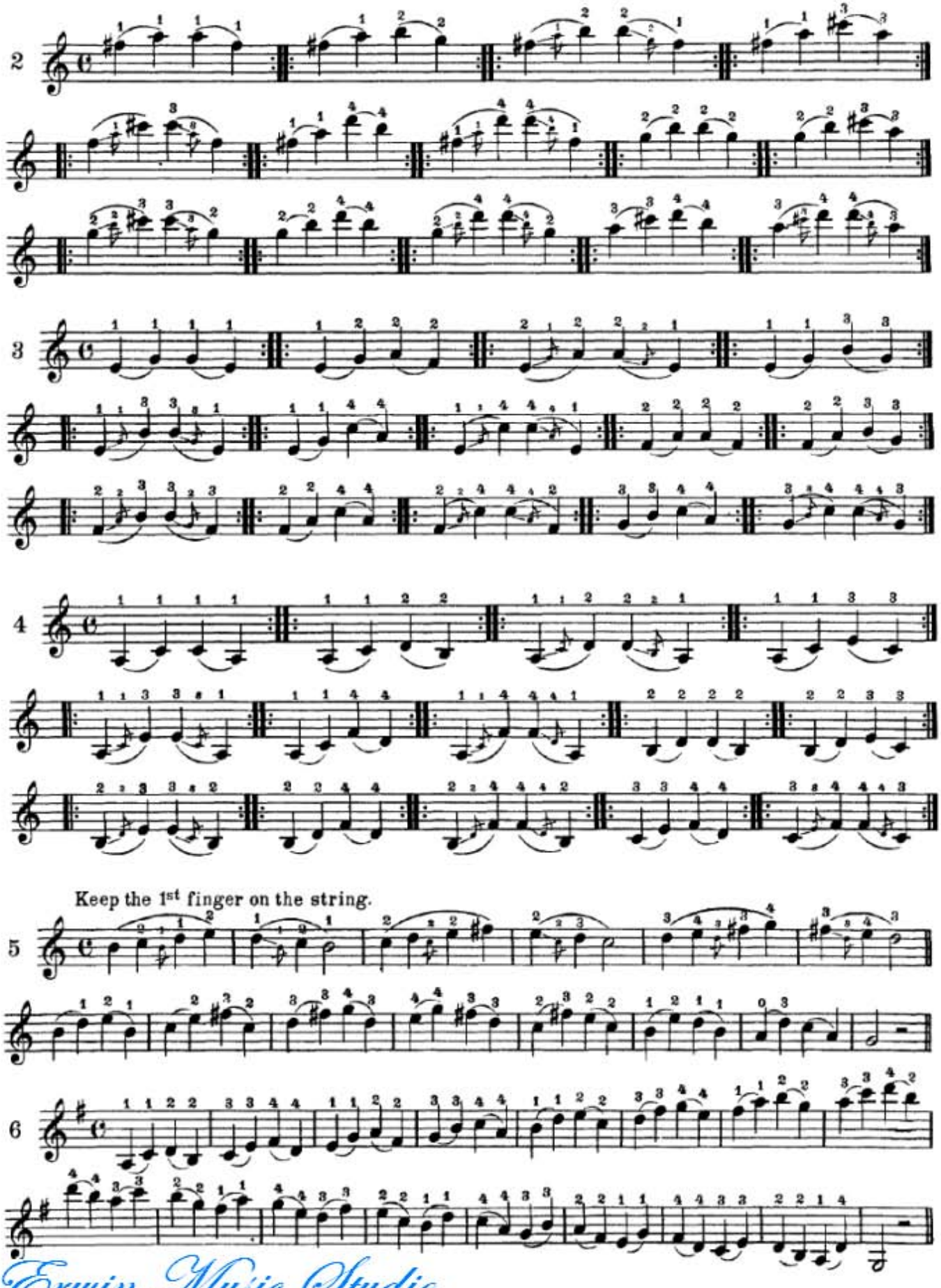
The teacher will perceive that the small note is meant only to indicate the movement of the finger which operates the change of position; analyzing the exercise as below, the pupil will see the utility of this system for obtaining a proper portamento.

N.B. The small note should not be heard.

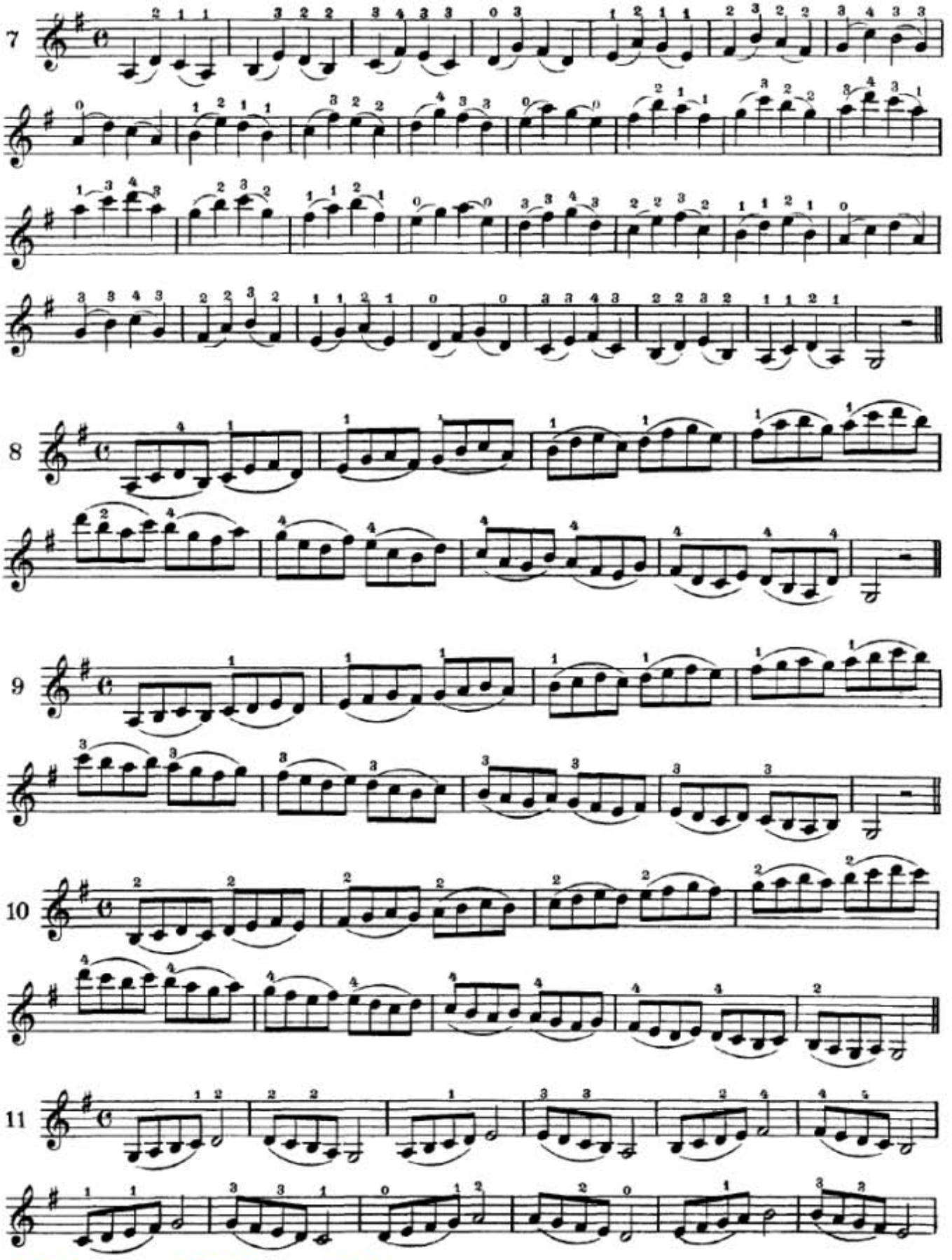
Play each measure 4 times.

1 

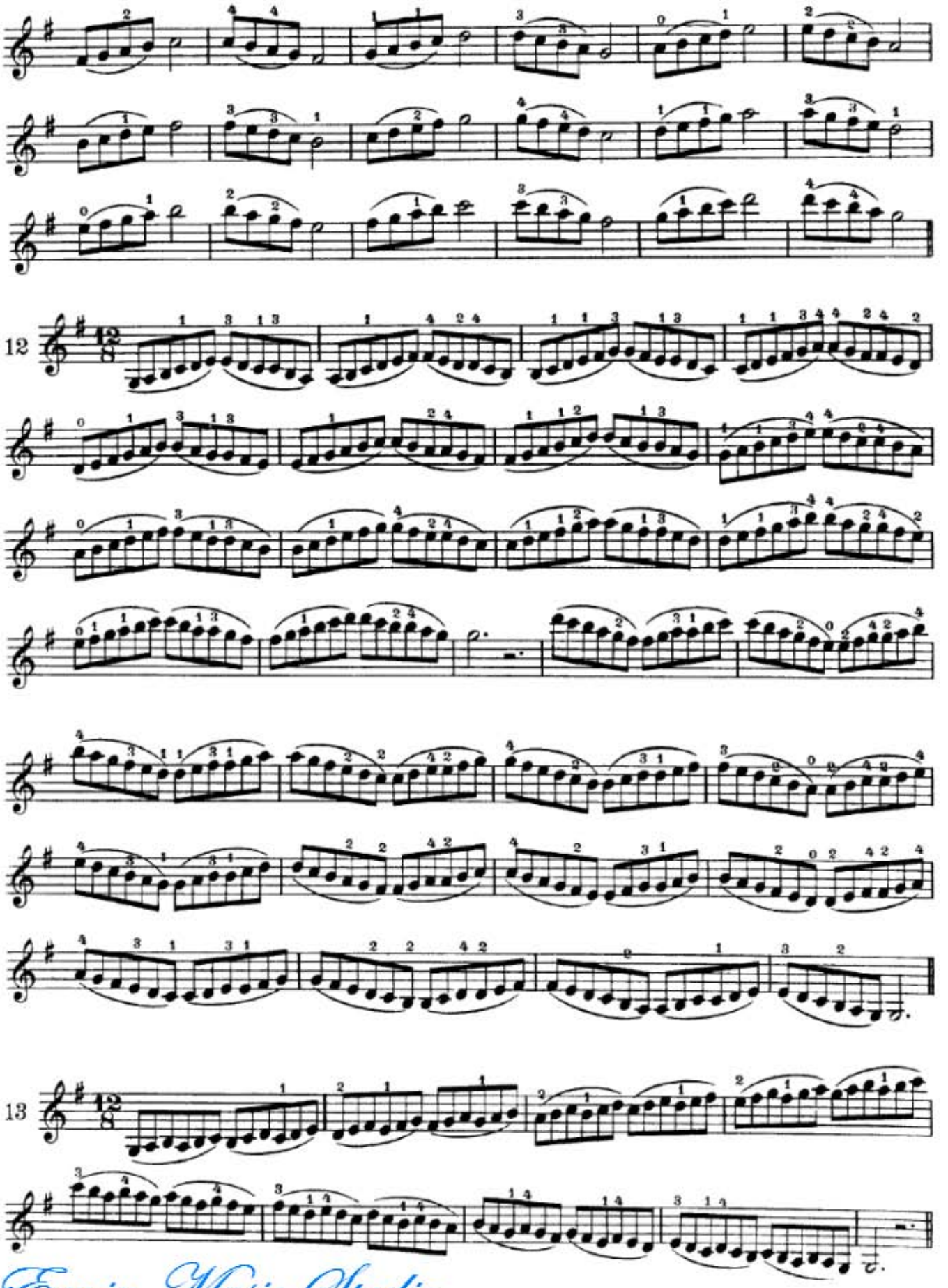
Erwin Music Studio



Erwin Music Studio



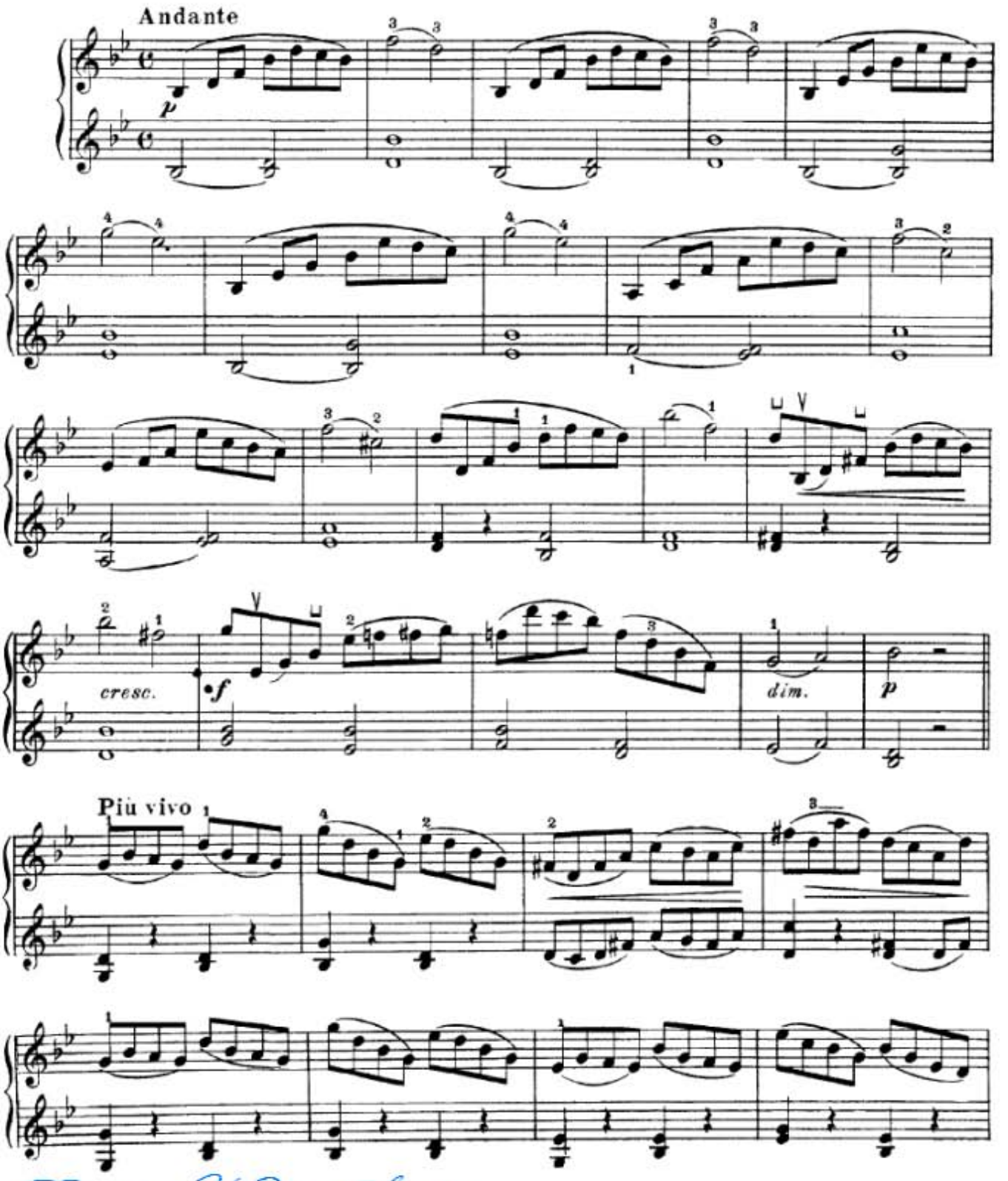
Erwin Music Studio



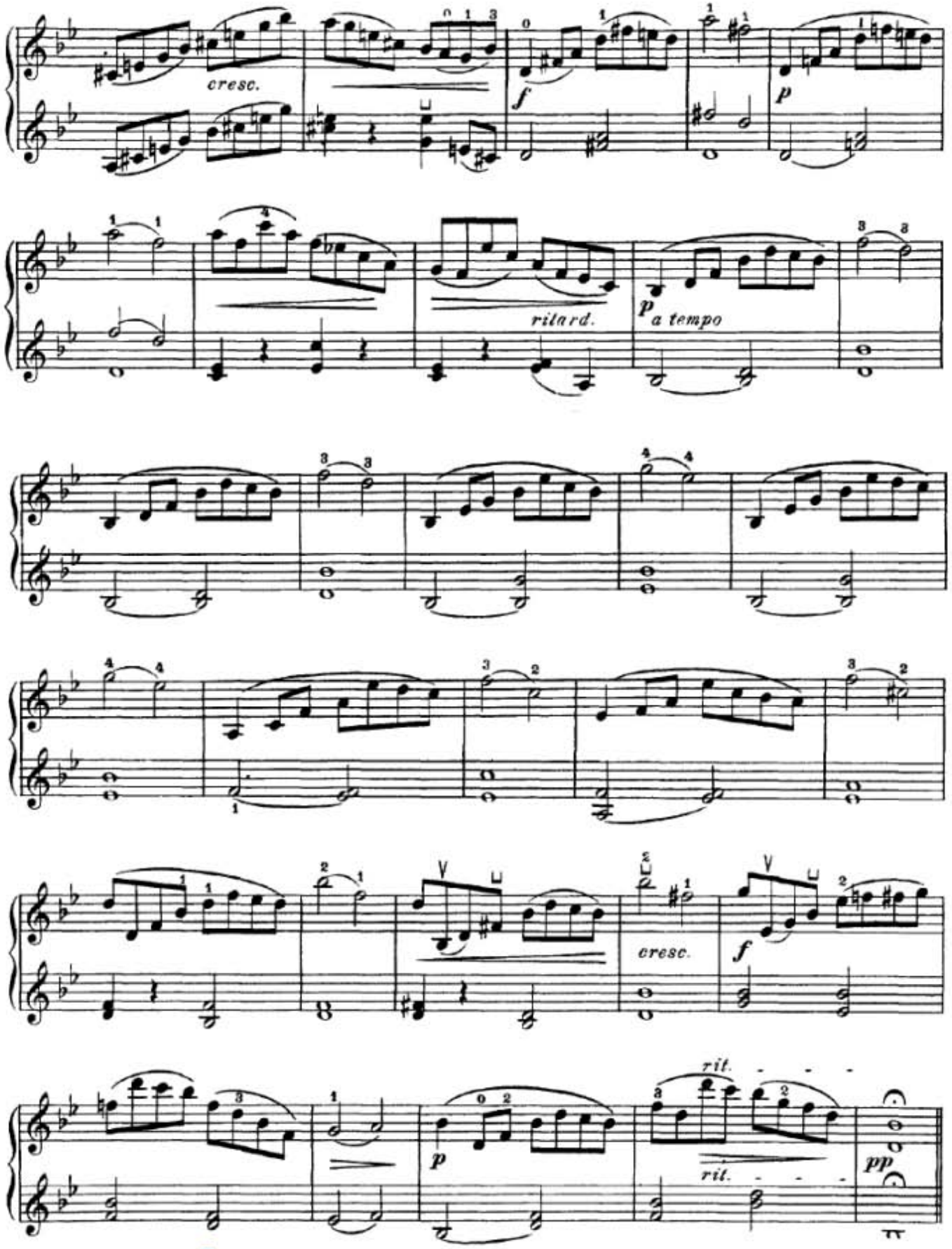
Erwin Music Studio

MELODIE
Exercise in Shifting

The shifting finger must move so rapidly that the slide from one note to the other is inaudible.



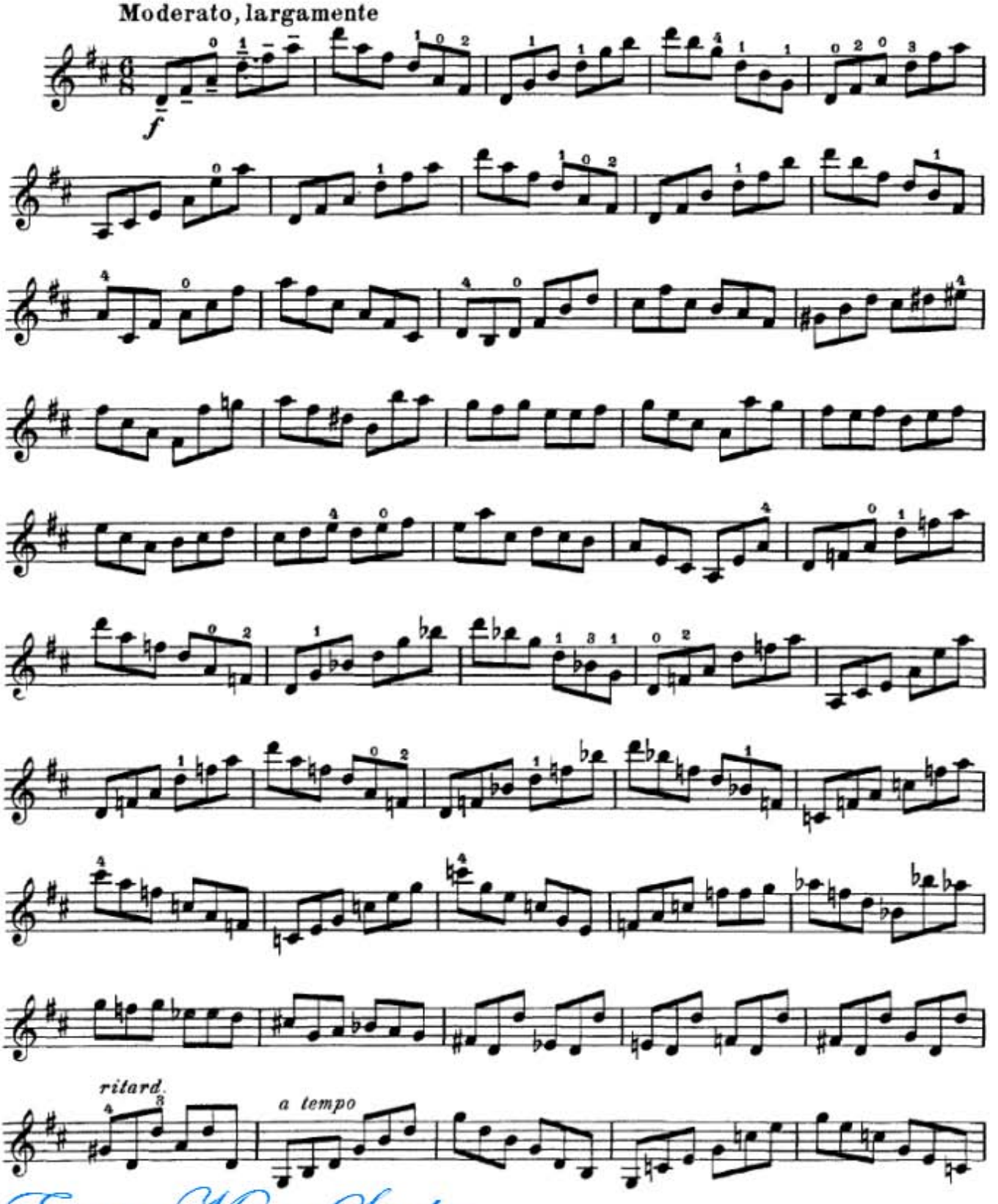
Erwin Music Studio



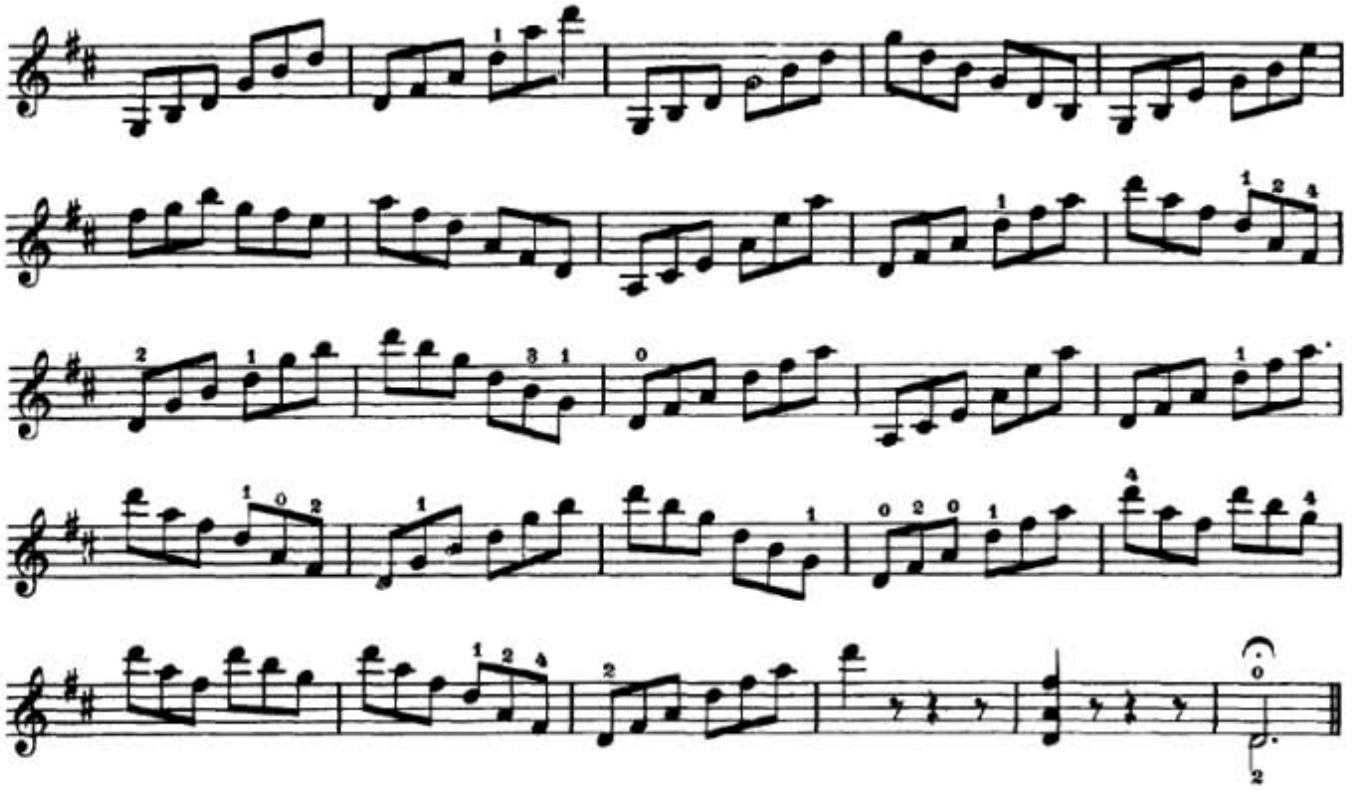
Erwin Music Studio

ÉTUDE

1st and 3d Positions



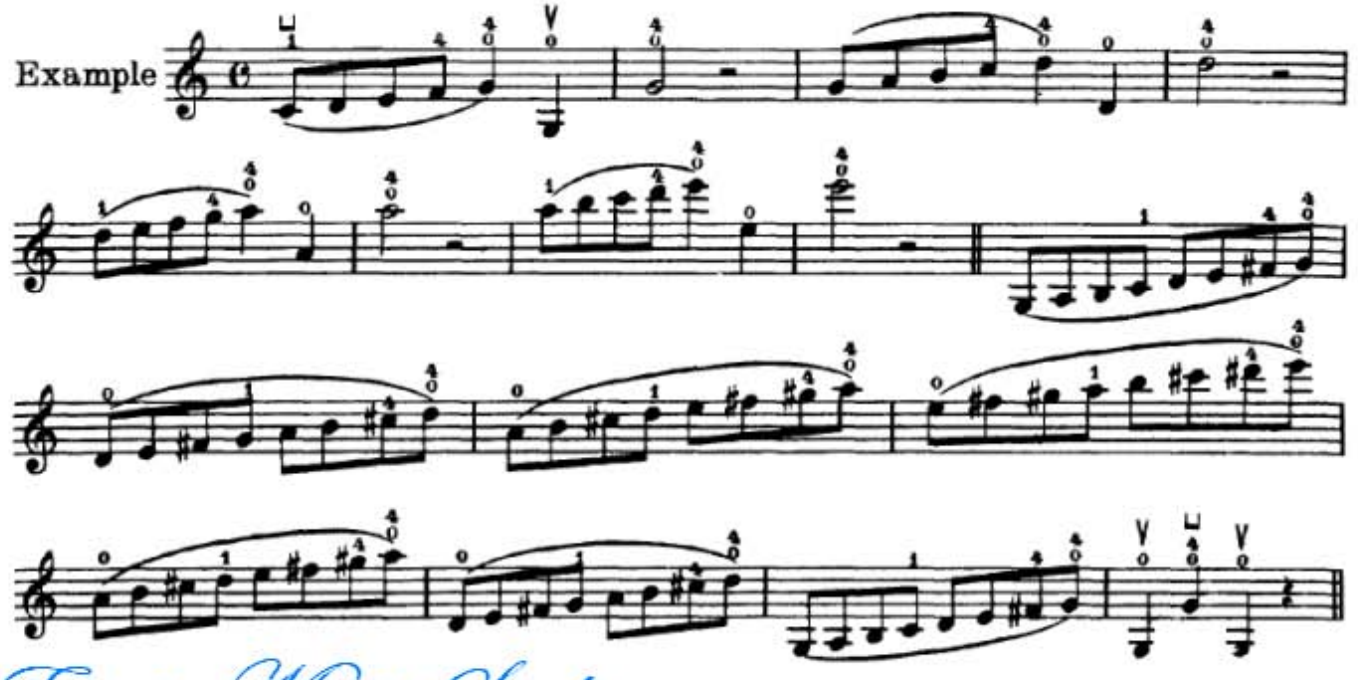
Erwin Music Studio



Extension of the 4th Finger in the 3d Position (Harmonics)

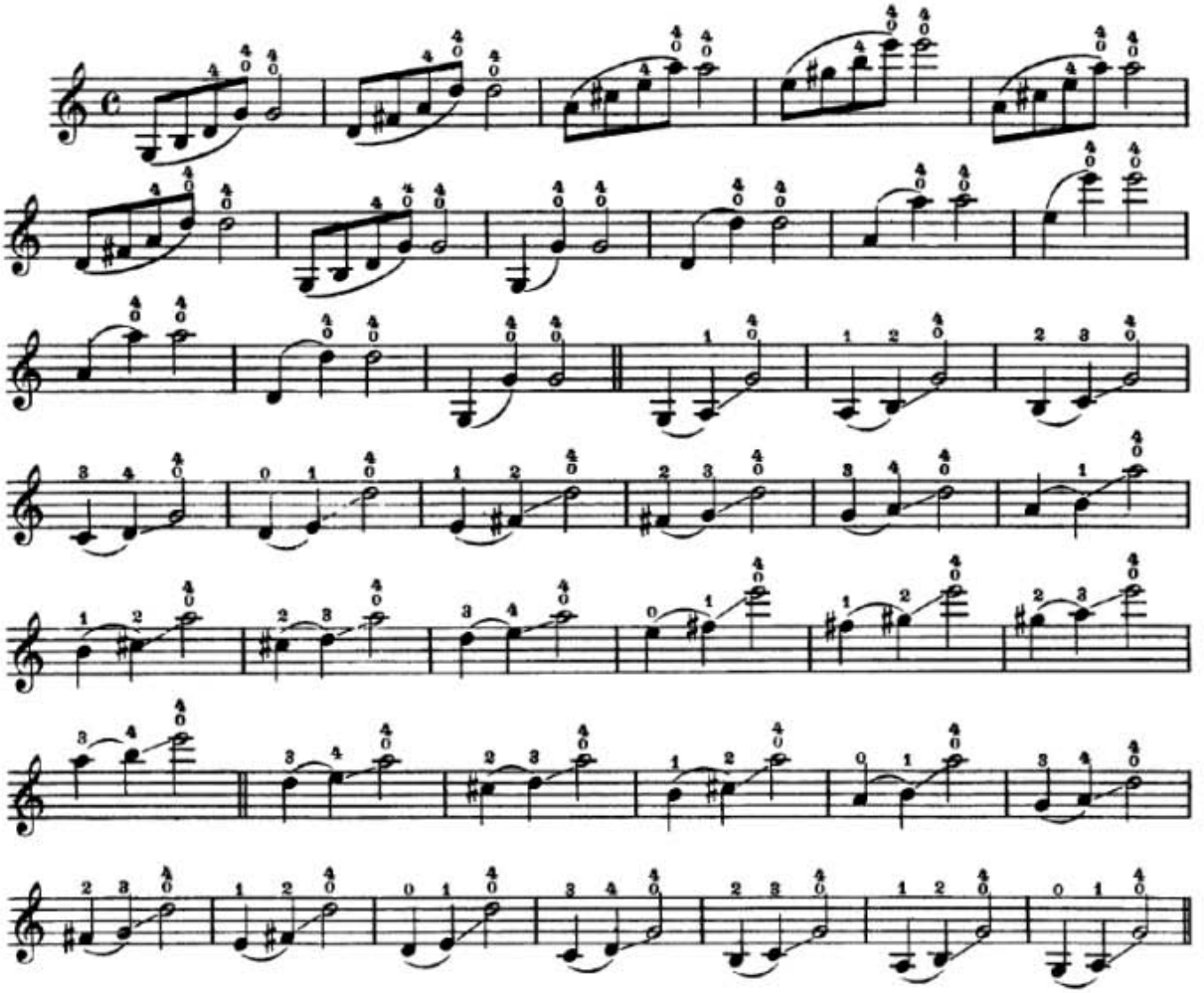
By extending the 4th finger in the 3d position one can get the harmonic tone an octave higher than the open string. It is marked $\frac{4}{0}$, which indicates that the finger must only lightly touch the string, without pressing it.

N. B. To let the harmonic sound, the other fingers must not touch the string.

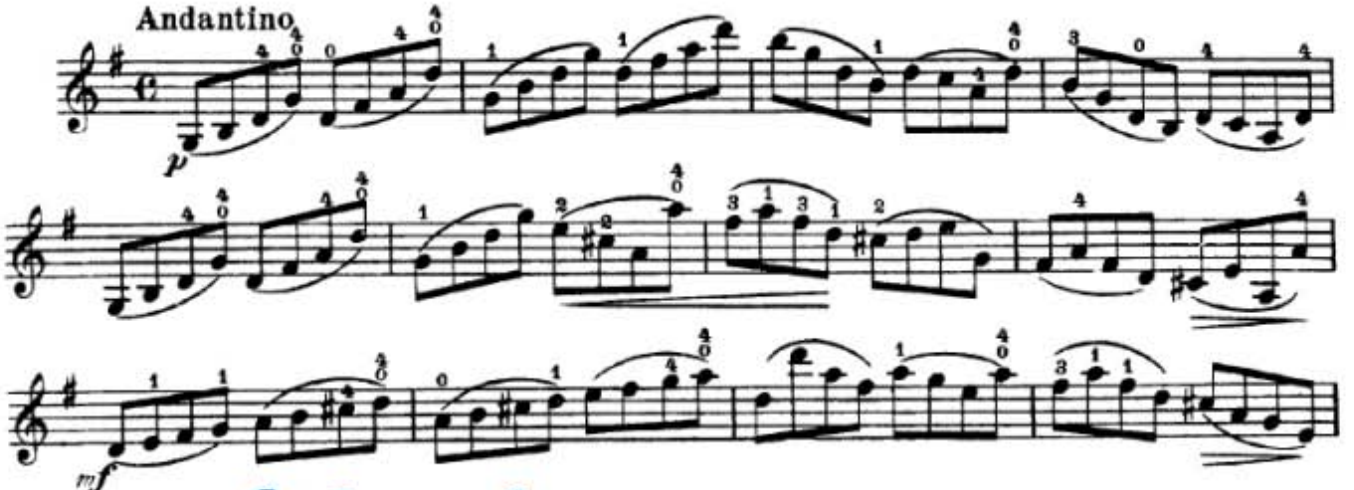


Erwin Music Studio

The harmonic may also be reached by starting with the 4th finger from the 1st position. Let the hand slide gently from 1st to 3d position, while slightly raising and extending the 4th finger.



ÉTUDE



Erwin Music Studio