

# Scales, Arpeggios and Other Basics

If music were a sport, then practicing your scales, arpeggios, and other exercises would be like running drills, doing batting practice, or shooting free throws. You are developing the basic skills you will need when you are facing the competition in a real game. Imagine an athlete who never practices, but instead just plays the game all the time. They won't have the time and attention to fix small problems and errors in his or her game.

Similarly, a musician needs to play exercises to have the ability to focus on very specific motions and timing to continually push their technique to higher levels. Students often have more fun running through their pieces than doing exercises, but just like that athlete, there will be technical problems that never get fully addressed without intently focusing on them with exercises.

What everyone needs is a balance of focusing on exercises and having fun with the beautiful, exciting music they are studying.

from <https://www.stringclub.com/cello/exercises/>

## Important skills honed with scales and other basics exercises:

- Ear training
- Fingering patterns
- Position reinforcement
- Ease and fluency

## Recommended free resources:

Klengel, Julius; Technical Studies

Vol. 1 <http://ks.imslp.info/files/imglnks/usimg/4/41/IMSLP20228-PMLP47173-Klengel - Technical Cello Studies Vol.1.pdf>

Vol. 2 <http://ks4.imslp.net/files/imglnks/usimg/9/96/IMSLP20229-PMLP47173-Klengel - Technical Cello Studies Vol.2.pdf>

Cossmann, Bernhard; Studies for developing agility, strength of fingers, and purity of intonation

<http://ks4.imslp.net/files/imglnks/usimg/b/b0/IMSLP25341-PMLP56878-Cossmann - Studies for Developing Agility for Cello.pdf>

Ševčík, Otakar; School of Bowing Technique, Op. 2 (arr. Feuilliard)

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[https://imslp.org/wiki/School\\_of\\_Bowing\\_Technique%2C\\_Op.2\\_\(Ševč%C3%ADk%2C\\_Otakar\)](https://imslp.org/wiki/School_of_Bowing_Technique%2C_Op.2_(Ševč%C3%ADk%2C_Otakar))

Ševčík, Otakar; 40 Variations, Op. 3 (arr. Feulliard)

[http://ks4.imslp.net/files/imglnks/usimg/f/fc/IMSLP64744-PMLP131898-40\\_Variations,\\_Op.3.PDF](http://ks4.imslp.net/files/imglnks/usimg/f/fc/IMSLP64744-PMLP131898-40_Variations,_Op.3.PDF)

NOT free, but worthwhile:

Starker, Janos; An Organized Method of String Playing, Peermusic  
Whitehouse, W.E. & Tabb, R.V.; Scale and Arpeggio Album, Schott

Also, consider:

Harvey, Cassia; many downloadable books with solid technical exercises.

<https://learnstrings.com/collections/cello-books>

compiled by Jennifer Stomberg, Aug. 6, 2020