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**TURNER'S**  
**"HIGH SCHOOL"**  
**STUDIES**  
FOR  
**MANDOLINE**

BY

**HERBERT J. ELLIS.**

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TURNER'S

HIGH SCHOOL STUDIES

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# TURNER'S HIGH SCHOOL STUDIES FOR THE MANDOLINE BY HERBERT J. ELLIS.

## PRELIMINARY.

### A FEW REMARKS ON THE INSTRUMENT, PLECTRUM, HOLDING and PLAYING.

IT is of the utmost importance that the performer should possess a really good instrument, and in this respect there are two things to be considered. The first is that the strings should be close to the fingerboard rising slightly towards the bridge, and not stand away about the middle in bow fashion. This is of the highest consequence, as besides rendering it difficult to stop the strings it is impossible to obtain the correct tones or half tones. This grave fault is more frequently than not, attributable to the warping of the handle owing to the employment of unseasoned wood. The second point and which is partly synonymous with the first is the correct fretting of the fingerboard, as if the handle has warped the notes produced would naturally be false although they may have been correct in the first place. But it is a common thing to find a perfectly straight fingerboard incorrectly fretted. The notes in the first position might be found fairly satisfactory but it is in the highest register where the trouble is illustrated. Therefore a perfectly straight and correctly fretted fingerboard is absolutely indispensable and any deviation from this one point would mar the *tout ensemble*. The fretting should be tested with the different strings stopped in octaves. A common test is to strike the A. string open and stop it at the twelfth fret. This should give the perfect octave; and if it is found to be false it is certain that the fretting is wrong and

the instrument useless, for the purpose of the following exercises and studies. This is taking it for granted that the bridge is in its proper place, as a correctly fretted fingerboard will not answer truly if the latter is not fitted with the nicest discrimination.

**THE PLECTRUM** is of more importance than many players imagine. There are those who like a large plectrum, and those who prefer a very pliable one. The plectrum used by the majority of Italian performers is of tortoiseshell a little under an inch in length and *not* pliable, the necessary elasticity being imparted to the strings by the degree of firmness with which it is held. What is intended here to convey is that the plectrum should not give to the strings, but the finger and thumb should give to the plectrum, thus:—in playing **P.** or *piano* passages it should be held with extreme delicacy and with only sufficient pressure to prevent it slipping from between the finger, and thumb, and in playing *crescendo* the hold should be gradually tightened until in *fortissimo* it is held rather firmly, but not rigidly. It is generally supposed that for *forte* passages the plectrum should be used near the bridge, and for playing *piano* nearer the fingerboard. This is correct in a small measure, but all the gradation of tone required should be obtained by the regulation of the pressure in holding the plectrum, using it near to, and on the bridge side of the sound-hole.

WITH regard to the correct attitude and manner of playing; this has been explained in various instruction books, but it may not be out of place to repeat it here.

The proper manner is for the performer to be in a standing position although it is not altogether incorrect to be seated. The instrument should be held against the right side, the fore-arm coming *under* the tail-piece allowing the hand to fall nicely over the strings with the wrist bent outwardly. The fourth finger is sometimes placed on the sound-board to steady the hand, but this must by no means be held stationary but must slide with the movement of the hand. It is well to employ a string or ribbon to assist in holding the Mandoline. This should be attached to one of the buttons at the base of the instrument, and to the machine at the end of the handle. The ribbon is *not* placed round the neck of the performer but over the right shoulder.

IN the following exercises and studies the slur (—) is used to indicate the Tremolo, and the staccato dots . . . signify striking.

# 4 PLECTRUM EXERCISES IN THE FIRST POSITION.

*Allegro*  
*(Striking)*

*Simile.*

**Ex. 1.** 

*Allegro.*

**Ex. 2.** 

## ABBREVIATION.

Ex. 3. 



Fine.

D.C. al Fine.

## TRIPLETS.

*No. 7.*

*C*

**No. 8.**

This section contains ten staves of sixteenth-note exercises. The first staff begins with a sixteenth-note pattern: VVVV, followed by a series of eighth-note pairs. Subsequent staves continue this pattern with variations in note heads and rests, maintaining a steady sixteenth-note flow. The exercises are designed to develop finger dexterity and coordination.

PRELIMINARY EXERCISES FOR THE SHAKE.

**No. 9.**

This section contains three staves of sixteenth-note exercises, likely intended for a shake or tremolo technique. The first staff uses hand positions 2 1, 4 3, 2 1, 4 3, 0 1, and 1 0. The second staff uses 3 2, 1 0, 4 3, 1 0, and 4 3. The third staff uses 4 3, 0, 2 1, 4 3, 0 1, and 4 3. These exercises help in developing control and speed for specific hand movements.



*Ad.* 10. c



*Ad.* 11. C



*Ad.* 12. c



# THE ART OF SHIFTING.

## FROM THE FIRST TO THE SECOND POSITION.

A. AND E. STRINGS.

Second Position.

D. AND A. STRINGS.

Second Position.

G. AND D. STRINGS.

Second Position.

## FROM THE FIRST TO THE THIRD POSITION.

A. AND E. STRINGS.

Third Position.

D. AND A. STRINGS.

Third Position.

G. AND D. STRINGS.

Third Position.

## FROM THE FIRST TO THE FOURTH POSITION.

A. AND E. STRINGS.

Fourth Position.

D. AND A. STRINGS.

Fourth Position.

G. AND D. STRINGS.

Fourth Position.

# FROM THE FIRST TO THE FIFTH POSITION.

**E. STRING.**

Musical notation for the E. string, showing fingerings for positions 1, 3, 5, and 3 again. The notes are eighth notes, and the positions are indicated by dashed boxes below the staff.

1.P. 3.P. 5.P. 3.P. 3.P. 5.P. 3.P. 1.P.

**A. STRING.**

Musical notation for the A. string, showing fingerings for positions 1, 3, 5, and 3 again. The notes are eighth notes, and the positions are indicated by dashed boxes below the staff.

1.P. 3.P. 5.P. 3.P. 3.P. 5.P. 3.P. 1.P.

**D. STRING.**

Musical notation for the D. string, showing fingerings for positions 1, 3, 5, and 3 again. The notes are eighth notes, and the positions are indicated by dashed boxes below the staff.

1.P. 3.P. 5.P. 3.P. 3.P. 5.P. 3.P. 1.P.

**G. STRING.**

Musical notation for the G. string, showing fingerings for positions 1, 3, 5, and 3 again. The notes are eighth notes, and the positions are indicated by dashed boxes below the staff.

1.P. 3.P. 5.P. 3.P. 3.P. 5.P. 3.P. 1.P.

## HARMONICS.

**MAJOR.**

**AT THE TWELFTH FRET.**

**TONIC MINOR.**

**E. STRING.**

Musical notation for the E. string harmonics at the twelfth fret. The notes are sixteenth notes, and the positions are indicated by dashed boxes below the staff.

**A. STRING.**

Musical notation for the A. string harmonics at the twelfth fret. The notes are sixteenth notes, and the positions are indicated by dashed boxes below the staff.

**D. STRING.**

Musical notation for the D. string harmonics at the twelfth fret. The notes are sixteenth notes, and the positions are indicated by dashed boxes below the staff.

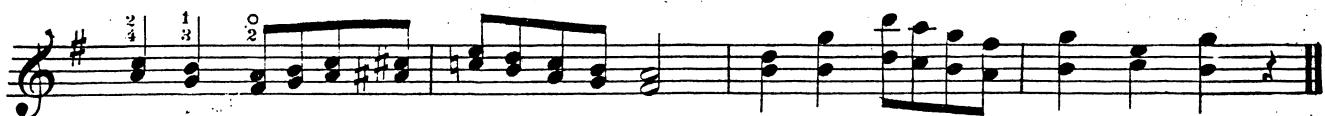
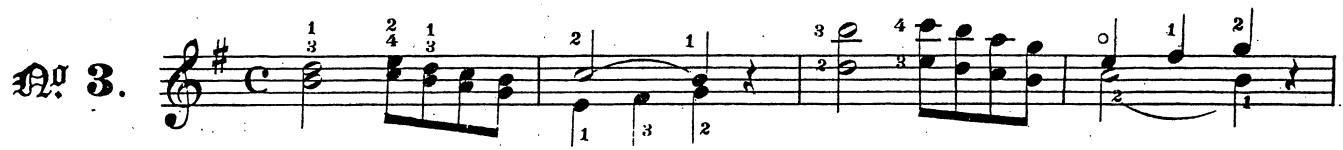
**G. STRING.**

Musical notation for the G. string harmonics at the twelfth fret. The notes are sixteenth notes, and the positions are indicated by dashed boxes below the staff.

## DOUBLE STOPPING.



Andante.



Andante cantabile.



# STUDIES IN THE POSITIONS.

13

## THE FIRST AND SECOND POSITIONS.

Moderato.

*Tremolo.*

PRIMO. ♩ 2

1st Pos: 8 4 1 2 8 4 1 2 Tremolo.

2nd Pos: 1 2 3 4 3 2 4 2

1st Pos: 2 1 4 3 3 2 1 0 3 2 1 0 3

2nd Pos: 1 2 1 1 1 4 1 2

1st Pos: 3 4 3 2 3 2 3 2 2 2 0 1 2 3 4 1 0

2nd Pos: 1 2 3 4 3 2 3 2 2 2 0 1 2 3 4 1 0

1st Pos: 4

2nd Pos: 1 2 3 4 3 2 3 2 2 2 0 1 2 3 4 1 0

1st Pos: 3 2 1 0 3 2 1 0 3 2 1 0 3 2 1 0 3

2nd Pos: 1 2 3 4 3 2 3 2 2 2 0 1 2 3 4 1 0

1st Pos: 4

2nd Pos: 1 2 3 4 3 2 3 2 2 2 0 1 2 3 4 1 0

1st Pos: 3 2 1 0 3 2 1 0 3 2 1 0 3 2 1 0 3

## ON THE SECOND POSITION.

Andante.

PRIMO. {

2nd Pos. {

SECONDO {

1st Pos. {

2nd Pos. {

3rd Pos. {

## FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD POSITIONS.

PRIMO. {

2nd Pos. {

1st Pos. {

3rd Pos. {

1st P. {

2nd Pos. {

3rd Pos. {

FINE. {

2nd Pos. {

3rd Pos. {

1st Pos. {

D.C. AL FINE. {

## FIRST AND THIRD POSITIONS.

Andante.

**PRIMO.**

**Alto.**

**SECONDO.**

3<sup>rd</sup> Pos:

1<sup>st</sup> Pos:

3<sup>rd</sup> Pos:

1<sup>st</sup> Pos:

1<sup>st</sup> Pos:

3<sup>rd</sup> Pos: 1<sup>st</sup> Pos:

### FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD POSITIONS

Lento.

**PRIMO.**

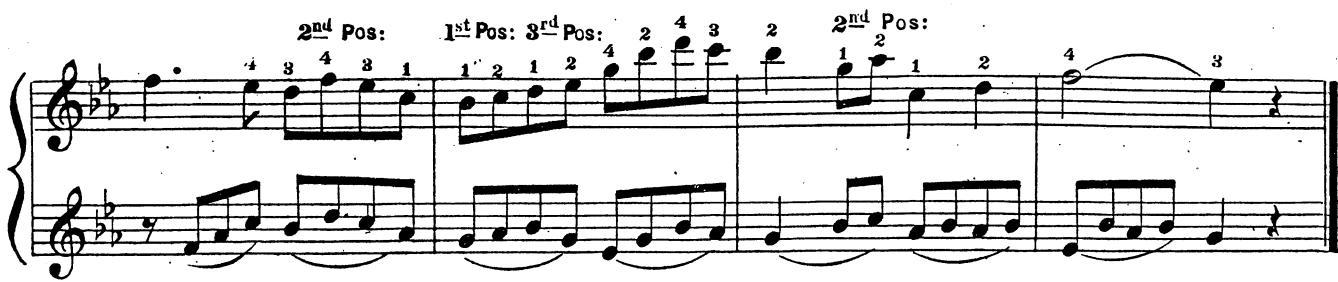
**Ad. 5.**

**SECONDO.**

1<sup>st</sup> Pos: 3<sup>rd</sup> Pos:

1<sup>st</sup> Pos:

2<sup>nd</sup> Pos: 1<sup>st</sup> Pos:



### FIRST AND THIRD POSITIONS.

**PRIMO.**

**Ad 6.**

**SECONDO.**

1st Pos.      3rd Pos.      1st Pos.      3rd Pos.

3rd Pos.

1st Pos.

The page contains eight staves of musical notation for two guitars (Primo and Secondo) in common time with a key signature of one sharp. The notation includes various fingerings such as 1, 2, 3, 4, and 1-2-3-4. Measures are separated by vertical bar lines, and some notes have stems pointing up or down.

## FIRST, THIRD AND FOURTH POSITIONS.

PRIMO. {

**D. 7.** {

SECONDO. {

3<sup>rd</sup> Pos:

1 2 4 3

1st Pos:

1 2

The sheet music consists of eight staves of music for two violins (Primo and Secondo) and a piano. The violins play mostly eighth-note patterns, while the piano provides harmonic support. The music is divided into sections by measure numbers and position markings. The positions are indicated above the staves: 3rd Pos, 1st Pos, 1st Pos, 4th Pos, 3rd Pos, 1st Pos, 4th Pos, 1st Pos, and 4th Pos. Measure numbers are present at the beginning of each section. The key signature changes from G major (two sharps) to A major (one sharp) and back to G major throughout the piece.

1<sup>st</sup> Pos:

1<sup>st</sup> Pos:                  4<sup>th</sup> Pos:

3<sup>rd</sup> Pos:                  3<sup>rd</sup> Pos:                  1<sup>st</sup> Pos:

### FIFTH POSITION.

Lento.

PRIMO. {

M. 8. {

SECUNDO. {

2      4      2 3 4 1      4 2      1

2      4      2 3 4 1      4 2      1

2      4 8      2 1 4 8      2      2      8 2

2      4 8      2 1 4 8      2      2      8 2

2 1 4 1      2 1 4 8      2 1 3 1      4 2 1 3      2 3

2 1 4 1      2 1 4 8      2 1 3 1      4 2 1 3      2 3

# FIRST, SECOND, THIRD, FOURTH AND FIFTH POSITIONS.

Andante.

1<sup>st</sup> Pos. 2<sup>nd</sup> Pos.

**PRIMO.** ♫ 9. ♫

**SECONDO.**

3<sup>rd</sup> Pos. 4<sup>th</sup> Pos. 5<sup>th</sup> Pos.

3<sup>rd</sup> Pos. 1<sup>st</sup> Pos. 4<sup>th</sup> Pos. 5<sup>th</sup> Pos. 4<sup>th</sup> Pos.

## THE SIXTH POSITION.

**PRIMO.** ♫ 10. ♫

**SECONDO.**

Rall.

A musical score for two mandolins, consisting of six staves of music. The music is in common time and uses a treble clef. Fingerings (1-4) are indicated above the notes to show the specific frets to be played. The score includes dynamic markings like 'Rall.' (rallentando) and slurs.

### \*THE SEVENTH POSITION.

A musical score for three mandolins, divided into sections: PRIMO, SECONDO, and III. The music is in common time and uses a treble clef. Fingerings (1-4) are indicated above the notes. The score includes dynamic markings like 'Rall.' and slurs.

TURNER'S HIGH SCHOOL.

\*FOR MANDOLINES WITH NINETEEN OR MORE FRETS.

## STUDY FOR THE PLECTRUM SLUR.

Gliding the plectrum from one string to another thus:  is termed the plectrum slur.

Moderato.

PRIMO. {

**M. 12.**

SECONDO. {



## THE PORTAMENTO.

The Portamento is the effect produced by gliding the finger over the frets from one note to another. To obtain this the finger must continue the pressure on the string from the first to the second note. It is performed ascending or descending and in double notes as well as single.

**EXAMPLE**  
(*Tremolo*)



### STUDY FOR THE PORTAMENTO.

**Adagio.**

**PRIMO.** {

**Ad. 13.** {

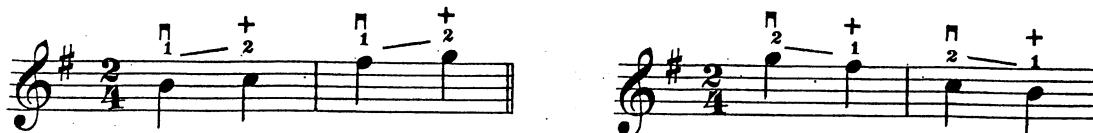
**SECONDO.** {

## STUDY FOR THE LEFT-HAND PIZZICATO.

The Left-hand Pizzicato is produced by pulling a finger off the string so as to obtain the note without the aid of the plectrum.

This is in descending passages. In ascending the finger or fingers must fall powerfully on the string like a hammer.

### EXAMPLES.



The Notes marked + are produced by the left hand alone.

### STUDY.

PRIMO. {

*M. 14.*

SECONDO. {

# SCALES AND ARPEGGIOS.

FOR DAILY PRACTICE.

C.  
MAJOR.

A.  
MINOR.

G.  
MAJOR.

E.  
MINOR.

D.  
MAJOR.

B.  
MINOR.

A.  
MAJOR.

F#  
MINOR.

E.  
MAJOR.

C#  
MINOR.

B.  
MAJOR.

**C<sup>#</sup>**  
**MINOR.**

**F.**  
**MAJOR.**

**D.**  
**MINOR.**

**B<sup>b</sup>**  
**MAJOR.**

**G.**  
**MINOR.**

**E<sup>b</sup>**  
**MAJOR.**

C.  
MINOR.

A<sup>b</sup>  
MAJOR.

F.  
MINOR.

D<sup>b</sup>  
MAJOR.

B<sup>b</sup>  
MINOR.

ARPEGGIOS.  
FOR THE SLUR AND STACCATO.

Chords for the Exercises.



EXERCISES.

*No. 1.*

*No. 2.*

*No. 3.*

Ex. 4.

Ex. 5.

Ex. 6.

Musical score for a single instrument (likely flute or piccolo) in common time (indicated by 'C'). The score consists of ten staves of music, numbered 1 through 10. The music is primarily composed of eighth-note patterns. Measure 10 includes a measure repeat sign and a repeat sign with a 'C' indicating a repeat of the previous measure.

## ARPEGGIOS ON FOUR STRINGS.

1.

2.

## No. 1.



## No. 2.



## SCALES IN THIRDS.

## No. 1.



## IN SIXTHS.

## No. 2.



## No. 1.

## OCTAVES.



## No. 2



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