

Cello Power

Book 2

Cello Warm-ups in
Thumb Position

by Marion Feldman



CARL FISCHER®

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Preface

Cello Power is a series of five books designed to be used to expand the cello student's facility and knowledge of the instrument. The books are structured to focus on the advanced materials that appear in our cello literature. Most important are the exercises and my further recommendations on how to work on them. The process is first to digest the fundamental of each, and thereby to enable one to build a solid technique in preparation for the difficult passagework ahead. An example are the double-stop excerpts, which are broken down into two-string bow patterns to aid in intonation and to clarify the spacing for the left hand.

Books 1 and 2 are planned to fill the gap left vacant by lack of materials covering, in a progressive order, the transition from the introduction of the thumb position into a student's studies and the work on the much more difficult application of this information into studies by Popper, Grützmacher and Piatti. Of course, then there are the ensuing repertoire demands of concerti by Dvorak, Saint-Saëns and such like.

Book 3 is aimed at developing a sure and secure technique and facility in the neck area of the cello. This includes materials to help make the fifth, sixth and seventh position less awkward for the student. The goal is to aid in the ability of the student to become more able to apply this technical comfort to the attainment of a more nuanced and emotionally fulfilling musical performance on the cello.

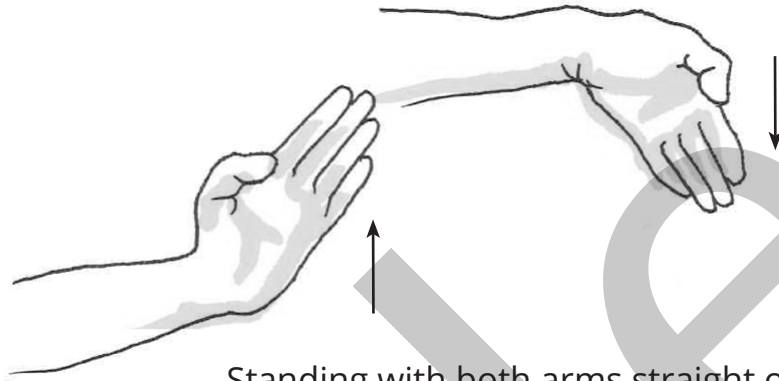
—Marion Feldman

Exercises for Warm-ups

Designed by Libby Freidman



Hands behind head
Push elbows back
and bring shoulder
blades together



Standing with both arms straight out
Bring the hand up and down 20 times



Standing with both arms straight out
Make fist, then spread fingers wide. Do 20 times



Small circles
Only backwards
30-60 seconds



Pull to each side
10 seconds each
Do four times



Pull opposite elbow
behind head and
also the opposite side
Hold each stretch
10 seconds

MARION FELDMAN

Thumb Position Groupings

Set left hand spacing and then try to hold it as you play the pattern.
Be able to name the notes you are playing as you play each pattern.

☿ Indicates the use of left hand thumb

+ Indicates a whole-step.

- Indicates a half-step.

Grouping 1

(+ + -)

whole step-whole step-half step



Grouping 2

(+ - +)

Keep 1 and 2 tightly together; reach out with 3



Grouping 3

(- + +)

Keep the 1 tightly curved against the thumb; reach out with 3



Grouping 4

(+ + +)

Do these exercises on all strings

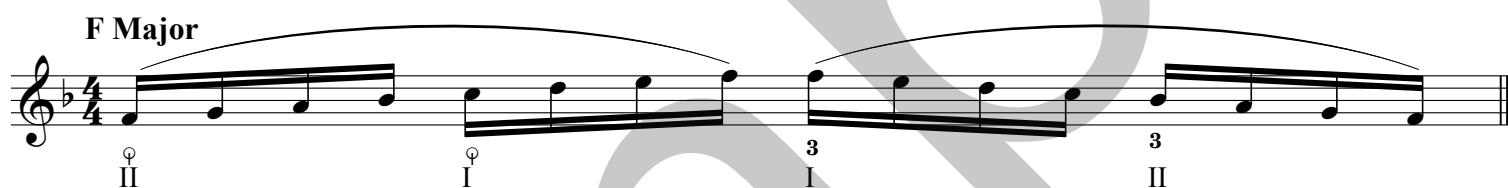
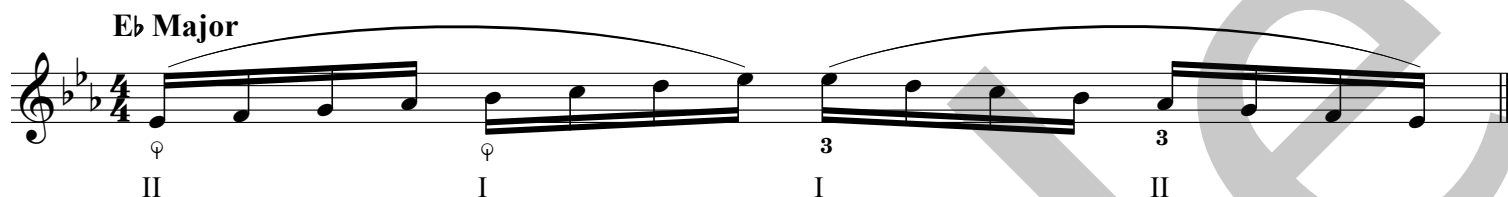
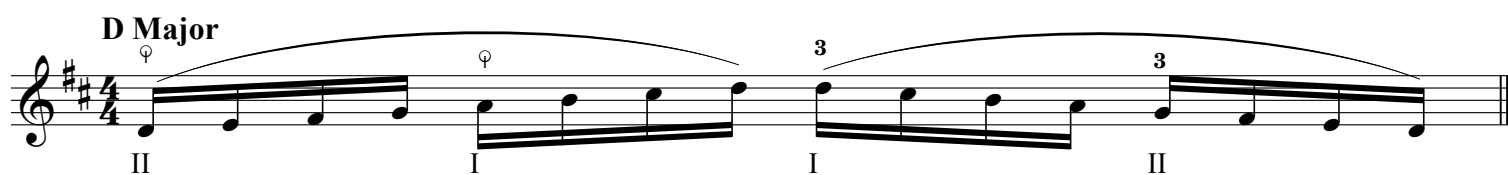


Major Scales in Thumb Position across Two Strings

Keep thumb straight across two strings. Curve first and second fingers.

Watch that the first finger spacing is not too sharp. Metronome at: ♩ = 54, ♩ = 76, ♩ = 100

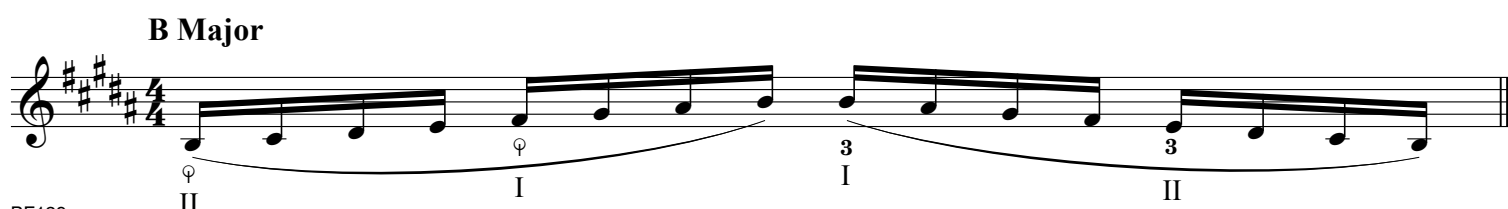
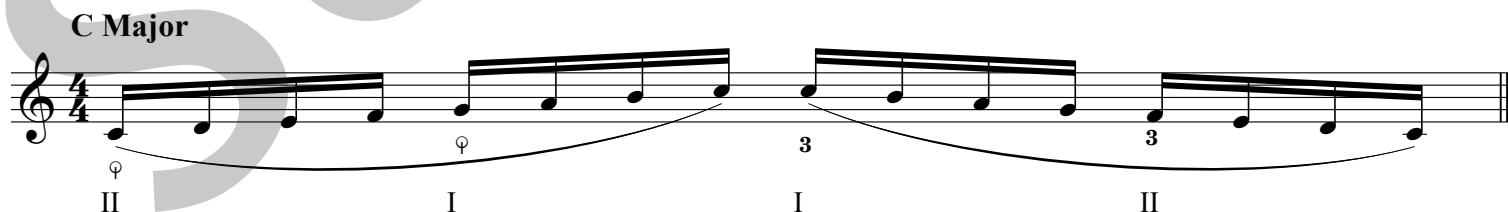
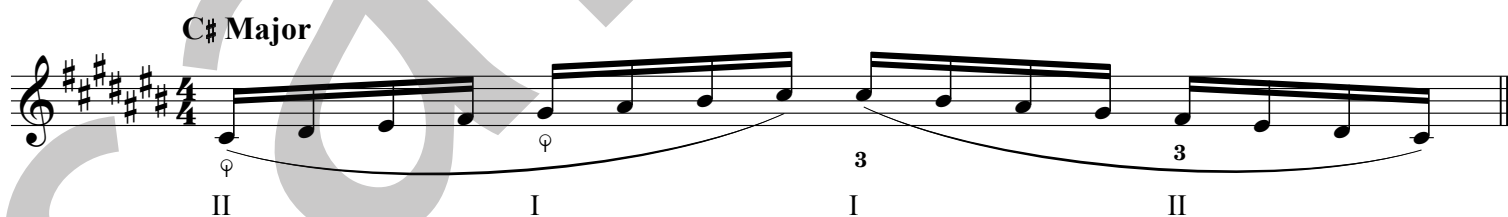
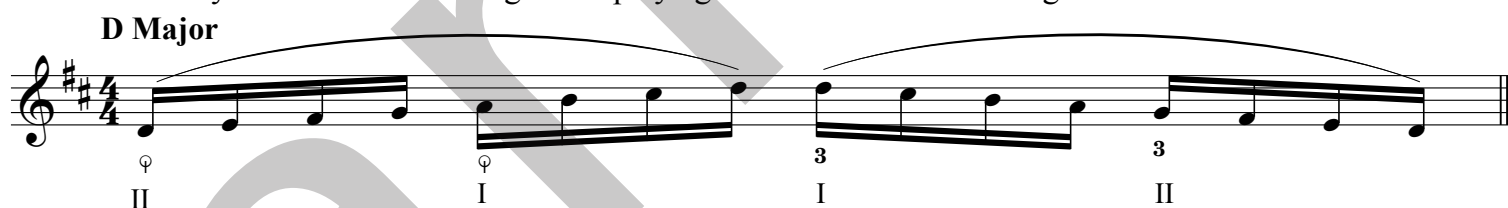
The left hand spacing is (+ + -)



Notice the wider spacing as you proceed down the string.

Keep the 1s and 2s curved. Keep the 1 back so it is in tune.

Try to curve the first finger and play against the side of the string so it doesn't buckle.

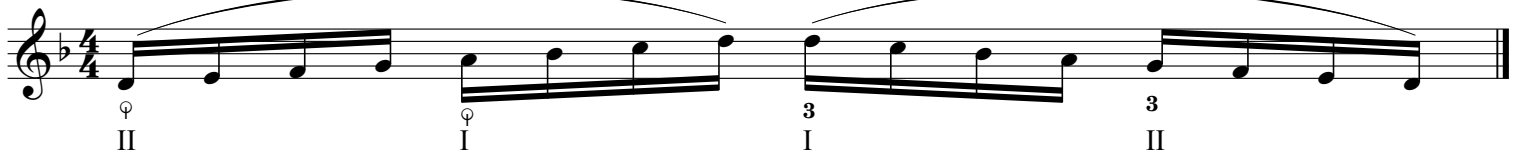


Minor Scales (Natural) in Thumb Position across Two Strings

Notice: two different spacing structures for the left hand (+ - +) and (- + +)

Metronome: ♩ = 54, ♩ = 76, ♩ = 100

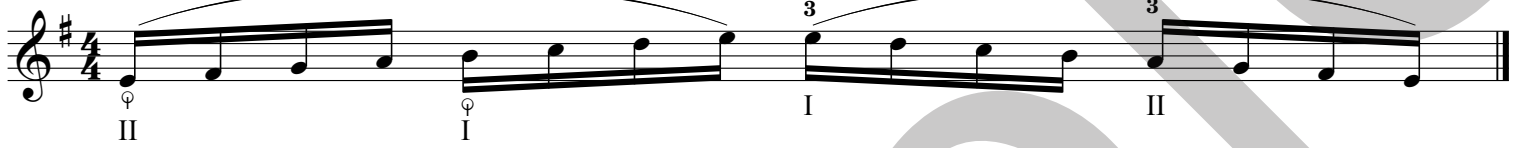
D Minor



E♭ Minor



E Minor



F Minor

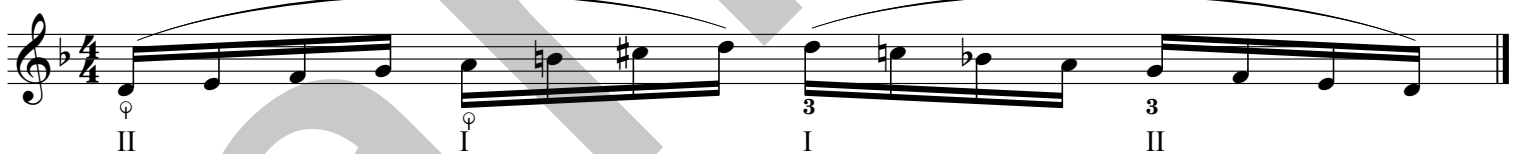


Minor Scales (Melodic)

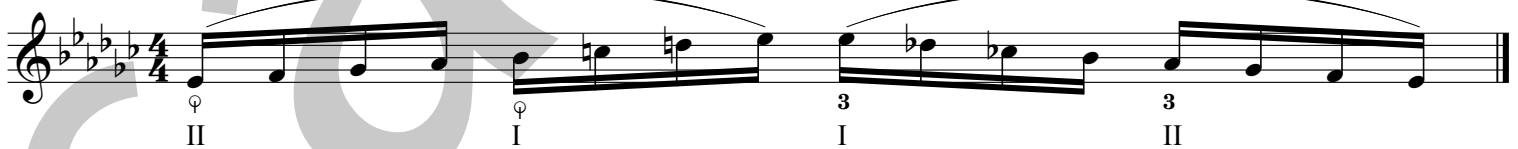
Notice: three different spacing structures for the left hand (+ - +) (+ + -) (- + +)

Metronome: ♩ = 54, ♩ = 76, ♩ = 100

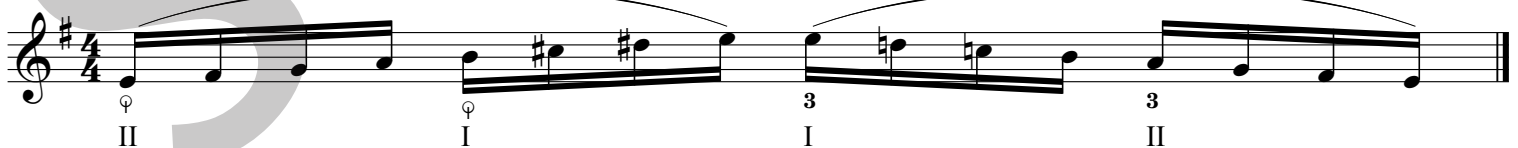
D Minor



E♭ Minor



E Minor



F Minor



Etude Using Scales in Thumb Position

(Etude, Op. 38, No. 3, Book 2)

FRIEDRICH GRÜTZMACHER (1832–1903)

Moderato

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in 4/4 time, key of D major. It consists of 38 measures, divided into seven systems of five measures each, with the final system containing only three measures. The tempo is marked 'Moderato'. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, fingerings, and dynamics.

Measure 1: *mf*. Fingerings: 1 2 3, 1 2 3. A slur covers measures 1 through 4.

Measure 5: A slur covers measures 5 through 8. Fingerings: 3 2, 1 2 3, 1.

Measure 10: A slur covers measures 10 through 13. Fingerings: 2 1, 3, 2 3.

Measure 15: A slur covers measures 15 through 18. Fingerings: 3 2 1, 1 1 2 3, 3 1 2 3, 1 2 3 1.

Measure 20: *sfz*. A slur covers measures 20 through 23. Fingerings: 2 3 1 1, 2, 2 3 4 3 2. *dimin.* is written below the staff.

Measure 25: *pp*. A slur covers measures 25 through 28. Fingerings: 2 3, 1 2 3 1.

Measure 30: *pp cresc.* is written below the staff. A slur covers measures 30 through 33. Fingerings: 2 3 4 3.

Measure 35: A slur covers measures 35 through 38. Fingerings: 4 3 2, 4, 1.

40 *f*

45 *dimin.* *mf*

50 *sfz*

55 *p* *mf*

60 *p* *mf*

65 *p* *sfz* *p* *sfz*

70 *sfz* *p*

75 *dimin.*

80 *dimin.*

85 II

Concerto in G Major

(Excerpt from Movement 1)

Going to a 4 in thumb position and leave the 2 down. Keep fingers in thumb position set for structure.
Pick up 1 and rotate outwards to get 4 onto the string (mm. 36 and 38)

LUIGI BOCCHERINI (1743–1805)

30

32

34

36

38

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42

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