

Viola Gauntlet: Day 6 (Saturday): Etude day (Kreutzer style)

Key of the day: A major / E major / F# minor

An original 40-bar etude in A major in the style of Kreutzer: string crossings, a shifting sequence, a high passage in 5th position and a circle-of-fifths return. Hard spots first, then the whole etude slow, in dotted rhythms, with a new bowing, and finally at a working tempo over piano chords.

Every exercise starts with 2 bars of count-in clicks. Stretch items are marked: aim at them, don't force them.

1. Open-string long tones ~3.3 min

One unbroken tone per bow, in tune with the drone; near the bridge, rich and slow; no crunch at the bow change

Stretch: 12-beat bows with no audible bow change

♩ = 60
8-beat bows

13

25

37

12-beat bows: son file, even pp

2. Drone intonation ~1.7 min

Each note rings with the drone - no beats; thirds low, leading note high

♩ = 66
listen for the beats to stop

11

17

interval ladder: hold the tonic, place each note against it

colour note

3. Fifths across strings ~1.8 min

One finger flat across two strings: a pure fifth means the hand frame is right

$\text{♩} = 60$
one finger flat across both strings - finger 1
finger 1
finger 2
finger 3
finger 1
finger 2

mp *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp*

13 *finger 3* *finger 4* *finger 1* *finger 2* *finger 4*

mp *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp*

4. Etude hard spots, slow ~2.9 min

Four tricky 2-bar spots from today's etude, three times each, slow and exact

bars 11-12: shift to 3rd pos., land the F#

$\text{♩} = 52$

4 *again*

7 *once more, freer*

10 *bars 18-19: 5th position, B7 up to B5*

13 *again*

16 *once more, freer*

19 *bars 21-22: C#7 with E#, crossings*

22 *again*

25 *once more, freer*

bars 29-30: G# half-dim. to C# minor

28

again

31

once more, freer

34

5. Etude in A - slow practice ~2.8 min

The whole etude at half speed: every note in tune, every crossing clean

♩ = 60

detache, middle of the bow

mf

4

7

2 slurred, 2 separate

p

10

3rd pos.

13

16

4 per bow

5th pos.

f

19

mf

22

25

8 slurred, 8 separate

mf

28

31

broad, separate

f

34

37

low strings

39

f

6. Dotted rhythms: bars 9-24 ~2.3 min

Long-short, then short-long: the fingers learn to arrive early

$\text{♩} = 60$

long-short, 2 per bow

3

5

7

9

11

13

15

17 *short-long, 2 per bow*

20

22

24

26

28

30

32

The musical score is written for a single melodic line, likely a violin or viola, in the key of A major (three sharps: F#, C#, G#). The notation is spread across 11 staves, numbered 9 to 32. The first six staves (9-16) are in treble clef, and the last five (17-32) are in bass clef. The music consists of a continuous eighth-note pattern, often beamed in groups of four. There are numerous slurs and ties throughout, indicating a flowing, legato texture. A specific instruction, *short-long, 2 per bow*, is written above staff 17, suggesting a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes. The score ends with a double bar line on staff 32.

7. Etude in A - 4 notes per bow ~2.5 min

A new bowing: every beat slurred, crossings rolled smoothly from the elbow

♩ = 66

4 per bow throughout

mf

4

7

10

13

16

19

22

25

28

31

34

37

39

8. Etude in A - working tempo ~2.2 min

Play it through as music at $q=78$: written bowings, no stops

Stretch: the whole etude at $q=78$ without stopping, shifts and crossings clean

$\text{♩} = 78$

detache, middle of the bow

mf

4

7

2 slurred, 2 separate

p

10

3rd pos.

13

16

4 per bow

5th pos.

f

19

mf

22

25 *8 slurred, 8 separate*
mf

28

31 *broad, separate*
f

34

37 *low strings*

39 *f*

This musical score is for a Viola Gauntlet exercise, spanning measures 25 to 39. It is written in 12/8 time with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The notation consists of six staves. Measures 25-34 feature a continuous eighth-note pattern, with slurs indicating groups of eight notes. Measure 25 is marked *mf* and includes the instruction *8 slurred, 8 separate*. Measure 31 is marked *f* and includes the instruction *broad, separate*. Measures 35-39 show a change in the pattern, with measure 37 labeled *low strings*. The piece concludes in measure 39 with a final *f* dynamic marking.