

# Drone Study

Double stops are one of the two most important foundations of fiddle playing. They set up a basic frame (a.k.a. shape) for the left hand, which is essential for dexterous fingering and good intonation. They encourage good use of the bow for improved tone. They can easily be incorporated into almost any fiddle tune to render it richer and more exciting. When one of the strings of a double stop is sustained or played repeatedly, it is referred to as a drone. The most common drones are shown below. Practice each with utmost care for good pitch, intonating each of the moving notes in relation to the drone note. Avoid sliding fingers around “willy-nilly”; instead, lift the finger and place it again. Each bar of this exercise should be repeated six to a hundred times daily.

Double-stopping the Upper pair of strings, using the Bottom string as a drone

Double-stopping the Upper pair of strings, using the Top string as a drone

Double-stopping the Middle pair of strings, in the same manner as above

Double-stopping the Lower pair of strings, in the same manner as above

\* NOTE:

The finger number with a line extending beneath the measure is meant as a reminder of the importance of not lifting the previously-used finger. Leaving fingers in place reinforces the relationship of fingers to one another (ie: “clustering” or “blocking”).

The small, square-shaped notes (ie: bar 3) indicate fingers that should be placed even though they are not sounding notes.