

Section II: Rhythm, Pulse, and Subdivision

I. Bow Speed and Rhythm

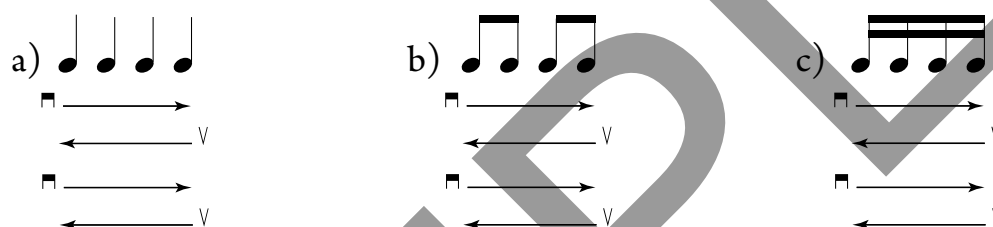
An understanding of the relationship between bow speed and rhythm is essential if rhythms are to be played correctly. In general, for young or less experienced string students, notes grouped in pairs are easier to execute than notes in groups of three. Also, maintaining a constant bow speed is easier than changing the bow speed.

Constant Bow Speed

Rhythms that include an even numbered combination (2, 4, 8, etc.) of notes of the same value should be played with a constant bow speed. Caution must be exercised with young students to ensure that equal amounts of bow are used for each note. If some notes in the rhythm are played with more bow (increasing the duration or slowing the tempo), or other notes are played with less bow (decreasing the duration or rushing the tempo), rhythmic insecurity and an unsteady pulse will result.

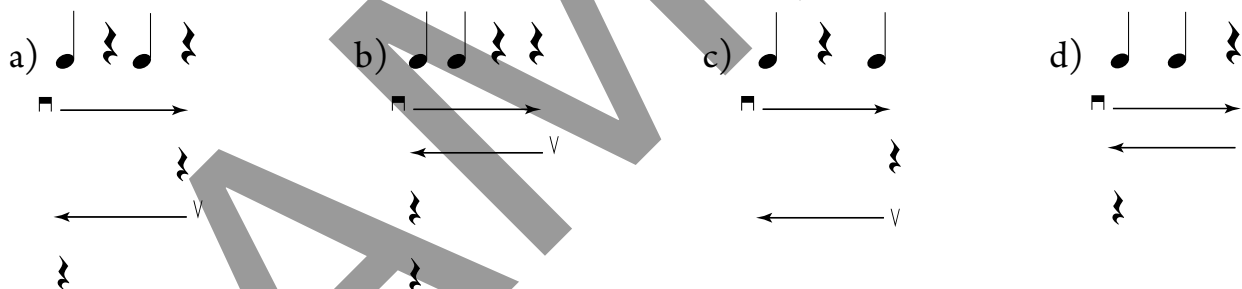
Example 1

Constant bow speed with like note values



Example 2

Constant bow speed with notes and rests



Changing Bow Speed

1. When Subdivisions Occur in Pairs

When a rhythm includes two different note values, one being the subdivision of the other, and the notes occur in pairs, two bowing options are available:

- The rhythm can be played by changing bow speeds so that the same amount of bow is used for each note.

Example 3

Changing bow speeds with equal amounts of bow

