



Tilman Hoppstock - On Finger Independence

"It's important to be able to control your movements to express the actual music." - Tilman Hoppstock

Outline

1. Left hand
 1. Single finger movements
 2. Two finger movements
 3. Similar movements through a scale
 2. Right hand
 1. Single finger movements
 2. Two finger movements
 3. Similar movements plucking strings
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Left hand

Single finger movements

1. Let your left hand fingers float above the fingerboard at the 5th fret.
2. Start by moving your second finger (middle finger) onto the string very slowly, but don't press on the string. It's important that your other fingers don't move!
3. Then, you can repeat this for the third and fourth fingers.
4. After you go through all fingers, you can start making bigger movements and moving faster.



Two finger movements

1. Now try moving the third and fourth fingers together at the same time with the steps above.
2. Then, repeat with the first and second fingers.

Similar movements through a scale

1. You can practice this practically and very slowly with an E major scale in the first position. Make sure each finger moves independently without moving the other fingers.
 2. Then you can play this faster and louder.
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Right hand

Single finger movements

1. Place your right hand where you would normally place it comfortably on the strings, without actually touching the strings.
2. Begin by moving your middle finger slowly in the air as if you're plucking the string. Try not to move your other fingers while doing this.

Two finger movements

1. Now try doing this same exercise with two fingers at a time. Try with your index and middle fingers, then your middle and ring fingers.



Similar movements plucking strings

1. Next, you can try doing both of these while actually plucking open strings.
2. These exercises can help you learn to separate and draw out voices in polyphonic music. For example in a Bach Fugue or in a Villa-Lobos study, you can learn to develop individual finger control to draw out certain voices.

Additional Resources

Check out the additional resources to this lesson below or ask Tilman a question by emailing us at team@tonebase.co!

1. [Tariq Harb's lesson on **Finger Independence**](#)
2. [Tilman Hoppstock's lesson on **Shifting**](#)