

# Viennese Bass Method

## Lesson 7. Thumb Position

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The Thumb position on octave harmonic offers the unique figuration and double stop possibilities that are characteristic of the advanced Viennese repertoire. In addition, the period notation of the thumb position register uses almost exclusively treble clef in combination with *Ottava* (one octave higher) markings. In the opening two exercises the exact same material is presented with, and without *Ottava* markings, as it is very important to learn how to read the treble clef music in the proper register.

Since most of the material in this lesson is intended for thumb position on the octave harmonic, there was no need to clutter the exercises with additional "position" brackets, so these are omitted. Moreover, a notable feature of the Viennese thumb technique is a use of all 4 (or 5) strings. In order to use this technique most effectively one would need to have an evenly graduated fingerboard in Gamba style. However, given the realities of our time, it is understood that players will attempt to accommodate the original fingerings in the best way possible on their modern fingerboards too. For the thumb markings please consult again the Symbols Notation Map.

### Exercise 42. D major scale, Thumb Position

### Exercise 43. D major scale, Thumb Position, with Ottava marking

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IV III II I II III IV III II I II III

Exercise 43. A major scale, Thumb Position

IV III II III IV III II I

I II III IV III II I II III IV

III II I II III IV III II I

I II III IV III II I II III IV

IV III II III IV III IV III IV

Exercise 44. Thumb Position String Crossings in D major

III II III II III II I II I II I

I II I II I II III II III II III IV III IV III IV III







## Exercise 51. Vanhal, Concerto, 4th Movement

I — II III IV III ——— II I — II I — II I — III II I II III II I II *simile*

III II I II III II I ——— II — III ——— II I — II I — *simile* III II I II

III II I II *simile* III II I — I II — III ———

## Exercise 51. Hoffmeister, Solo Quartet no. 2, 4th Movement

In this exercise you are welcome to try your own fingerings. This entire section can be performed in a single position, however there is also a fingering variant where the opening measure can be performed in the lower position. See if you can find both variants and then use the one more comfortable for you.