

PATH TO MASTERY  
**INTENTIONAL BOW DESIGN... A PEDAGOGICAL APPROACH**

PLAYER LEVEL	ESTIMATED YEARS OF PLAY:	BEGINNING		
		1	2	3
PEDAGOGICAL STANDARDS	<b>SUZUKI ASSOCIATION:</b> [Global Standard]	Book 1	Book 2	Book 3
	<b>AMERICAN STRING TEACHERS ASSOCIATION (ASTA):</b> [US Standard]	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
	<b>ROYAL CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC (RCM):</b> [Canadian Standard]	Prep   Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
	<b>ASSOCIATED BOARD OF ROYAL SCHOOLS OF MUSIC (ABRSM):</b> [UK Standard]	Prep   Level 1	Level 2	Level 3

BOWING SKILLS of player	1	2	3
	Half or whole bows, legato, détaché, staccato.	Half or whole bows, détaché, staccato and legato. Use of bow division.	Détaché, staccato, martelé, and legato.

PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS of bow	STABLE & SUPPORTIVE
	A stable, robust bow supportive of developing technique. Early bow technique is focused on gross motor movement of the arm rather than delicate control in the hand. To that end, a bow should balance towards the tip to rest sturdily on the strings for tonal clarity while reinforcing string connection for advancing range, color, and articulation.

DESIRED Design	BEGINNING
<b>BALANCE</b> - (DYNAMIC) The inertial center the player experiences while playing.	TIP-FAVORED
<b>WEIGHT</b> - The mass the player feels.	LIGHTER
<b>ACTION</b> - The nature of the string connection the player experiences. (Also referred to as 'Touch')	FIRMER
<b>STIFFNESS</b> - The force required to flex the bow.	STIFFER

INTERMEDIATE				ADVANCED		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Book 4	Book 5	Book 6	Book 7	Book 8	Book 9	Book 10
Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Level 7	Level 8	Level 9	Level 10
Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Level 7	Level 8	Level 9
Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Level 7	Level 8	Level 9

Relaxed bow hold, clear tone, some double stops, accented strokes, lifts and beginning spiccato.	Developing off-string bowings, flexibility in the bow arm, expressive playing.	Increased skills with mixed bowings developing slurred staccato and sautillé.	Extended fast passages played evenly and cleanly. Increasing bowing skills in sautillé, spiccato and complex string crossing.	More speed and agility in bowing. Wider dynamic range. More power, projection and beauty of tone.	Study of artificial harmonics. Continued progress in technical skills and tone production. Further development of expressive vocabulary in tone colors varied to suit interpretation.	Fluent playing over the entire range of the instrument. Some experience with virtuosic bowings like firm staccato, flying staccato, and jeté.
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LIVELY & ARTICULATE	EXPRESSIVE & RESPONSIVE
A lively, articulate bow offering facility and range. Advanced players are not only progressing with challenging bow skills, they are developing their expressive playing and artistic style. To succeed with complicated technique, the bow must deliver controlled agility by shifting the dynamic balance under the hand, and a slightly more supple action expands the tonal palette. At this point players may also begin to branch out to eclectic styles or tastes, and various bow designs should accommodate those preferences.	An expressive, responsive bow encouraging mature musical performance and artistic expression. At this stage players are perfecting their fine motor control and full command of their musical expression. Weight under the hand and supple action allows deeper string connection and sensitivity to the subtle commands from the right hand, thus opening up nuanced, complex tonal color and artistry.

INTERMEDIATE		ADVANCED	
CENTER		FROG-FAVORED	
MODERATE		HEAVIER	
MODERATE		MORE SUPPLE	
MODERATE		SOFTER	

PROFESSIONAL