

1. *Phrasing*

a. Phrasing is a very important part of technical exercises. If you can get in the habit of working on your phrasing while practicing your tedious exercises than this will translate to you're playing. While playing your scales and arpeggios, work on shaping the exercise so it has a clear beginning middle and end by using dynamics and visualization of the checkpoints. For example, when you start a scale, do not think about every note of every beat. Instead think about your initial starting point and where your next target is. This will be at the top of the scale before you come down. When you visualize these two points everything in between flows fluidly without hiccups. Otherwise your scale will sound like a rollercoaster clunking away on the gears to the top. The longer you can feel the phrase, the more fluid motion the scale will contain. Your last target after you have reached the top of your scale would then be at the bottom, so again visualize this as your target. Music in general is highly dependent upon phrasing so it is best to practice this feeling in all your exercises. To work on your phrasing we are going to add dynamics to your scales in the manner shown below. We will start small, grow louder, and then get softer again.

