



Technique Tool 2

Preparing Quickly for Hand Crossings

When one hand crosses over another, move “the crossing hand” as soon as possible to its new location. Waiting too long to cross will result in an uneven tempo.

Smooth Moves



Technique Tip: Match the sounds as the notes pass smoothly from hand to hand.

1. **Moderato**
D major

mf

prepare LH

2 LH over

2 prepare LH

RH 5

1

Play again in D minor.

2. **Moderato**
C Major

mf

prepare LH

2 LH over

5

Moderato
D Minor

mp

prepare LH

2 LH over

5

5

G Major

p

prepare LH

2 LH over

5

C Major

mf

prepare LH

2 LH over

5

3. **Moderato**
C Major

mf

prepare RH

RH over 3

5

Moderato
C Minor

mp

prepare RH

RH over 3

5

1 *8va* ↓

1 *8va* ↓

Legato Pedal

In each example, listen for a smooth and connected pedal.

Simple Footwork

(Feel the Downbeat)



Technique Tip: Use less weight for the notes on beats 2 and 3. Listen for a softer sound.

Andante

1.

Andante

2.

Top Note Leads



Technique Tip: Play with a lighter touch on beat 3 of each measure.

Moderato

1.

Moderato

2.

The I and V⁷ Chords in C

(Solid-Sounding Chords)



Technique Tip: Using *arm weight*, feel your fingers touch firmly and evenly for each chord change.

Boldly

f I V⁷

5

Melody and Chord Balance



Technique Tip: Create a perfect balance by playing the melody slightly louder than the chords.

Andante

f I V⁷

mp

5

Artistic Etude 3

Rhythm and Musical Mood

Many piano pieces have a strong rhythmic “feel” that projects the musical mood. To convey the rhythmic “feel” of measures 1–12, follow these steps:

- On the closed keyboard cover, tap the rhythm hands separately, then hands together.
- On the open keyboard, play very slowly at first. When you can play all the rhythms 100% accurately with no pauses, begin playing at a slightly faster tempo (*speed*).
- Finally, play up to tempo (but no faster than the tempo marking) while projecting the mood of the music.



Cool Mood

Fast, with a steady beat

5

10

mp

mf

The musical score is written for piano in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of three systems of two staves each. The first system (measures 1-4) begins with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The second system (measures 5-8) continues the piece. The third system (measures 9-12) includes a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic marking. Fingerings and articulation marks are provided throughout the score.