

You should now be familiar enough in handling your concertina to place it on your knee naturally and your hands should have lost any tightness which you may have experienced during your first few practices. If you do find that your hands are not relaxed take your little fingers from their rests and hang your hands from the thumb straps for a few seconds. **PLAY WITH YOUR FINGERS RELAXED.**

A reminder of an important instruction in the first lesson. Keep your fingers close to the keys. Your first, second and third fingers must never, during the elementary lessons, leave the tops of the keys. The only movement, other than gliding from one key to another, should be confined to the fraction of an inch needed to depress the key.

Now Play Exercise No. 6.

Make 'time' an important factor in everything you play. Count two beats on each note - slowly at first - and keep the notes even. When you have attained correct and even notes, halve the time - that is, make each note a crochet - and count one beat to each note. Continue to give even value to each note.

After playing this exercise with a fair degree of confidence try now to concentrate on the correct control of the bellows. You may have been using the bellows correctly but the usual tendency is to change the action of the bellows too frequently. Close your instrument - now play exercise No. 6 (in crochets) using only an outward movement of the bellows. If you find that your instrument is fully extended before you have completed the exercise you are using too much bellows. Start again, and do not pull the bellows so hard. Now repeat the scale completely for each movement in and out. Do not push or pull the bellows - just give the right-hand side of your concertina sufficient pressure to make the notes speak.

Now try Exercise No. 7.

Reminders:- Even notes.

Keep your fingers close to the keys.

Change your bellows as infrequently as possible.

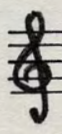
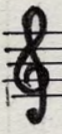
(I cannot mark a precise bar to change the action of the bellows as concertinas differ.

a) In the number of bellows 4 - 6

b) Air leakage in the instrument would make it impossible to play a long passage with one bellows.)

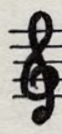
Maybe you are attempting to play music other than the exercises so far given in these lessons. My advice is - by all means get as much pleasure as possible from playing and if you feel like trying a simple tune do so BUT if you can wait, you will find that your favourite music will be within your capabilities and you will, after a little more elementary practice, play correctly and with ease. Get into the habit of playing everything correctly. Do not muddle through and risk the danger of becoming a haphazard musician.

The  
HARRY MINTING  
Concertina School



EXERCISE No 6

Musical notation for Exercise No 6, featuring a treble clef, a common time signature (C), and a sequence of notes with fingerings indicated below: 1, 1, 2, 2, 1, 1, 2, 2, 1, 2, 2, 1, 1, 2, 2, 1.



EXERCISE No 7.

Musical notation for Exercise No 7, featuring a treble clef, a common time signature (C), and a sequence of notes.

