

## Exercises for Finger Independence

**WARNING:** The following approach to developing “finger independence” is very common – it is taken from Schmidt’s “Preparatory Exercises”.

However, this approach is often mishandled. You must not do the following exercises in a “mindless” manner – thinking that if you go through this routine often enough your technical problems will be solved. This is a grave mistake. Practicing must always involve thoughtful analysis in addition to carefully planned repetition. As always, it is advisable to seek out the guidance of a “teacher” – someone that is more experienced and competent than yourself when venturing into unknown territory. If the following exercises are not used properly, bad habits and even injury could result.

**Basic Suggestions:** Make sure to keep your wrists relaxed, level, and relatively still. Your wrists should not bounce. This exercise is for your fingers only. Also use the metronome to help you make sure you are playing the notes evenly.

One way to practice these is to play each exercise 5 times each of the following ways (20 times total):  
Staccato and forte then Staccato and piano then Legato and forte then Legato and piano

The image displays twelve numbered piano exercises for finger independence, arranged in four rows of three. Each exercise consists of a treble and bass clef staff with a 4-measure phrase. Exercises 1-3 are in 4/4 time, while 4-12 are in 3/4 time. Exercises 1-6 have a descending bass line, while 7-12 have an ascending bass line. Exercises 1-3 and 7-9 have a descending treble line, while 4-6 and 10-12 have an ascending treble line.