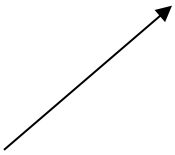
Lesson Four : Glissando

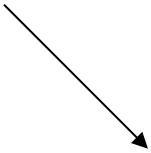
Technique

* "**hua zhi**" (flower finger) = gliss into a playing note using thumb

"**gua zou**" = glissando



Arrow going up is glissando across the strings upward from bass to treble notes using the index finger

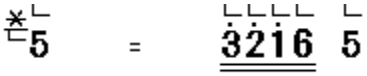


Arrow going down is glissando across the strings downward from treble to bass notes using the thumb

Gliss

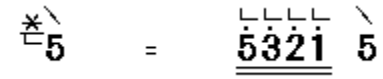
When gliss into a playing note, gliss the thumb across 3-5 strings and then pluck the playing note on the score. You can make the pick direction slightly facing downward to ease the string resistance, but do not bend too much as that will create a lot of pick noise when doing the gliss.

If the playing note is a thumb note, gliss through approximately 3-5 strings into the playing string and pluck the playing string inward/upward toward the palm. Be gentle on the gliss notes, do not make the gliss notes louder and out shadow the playing note. Gliss should sound like water fall rather than distinct and clear notes. Actual number of strings to gliss depends on the timing and the rhythm of the song.



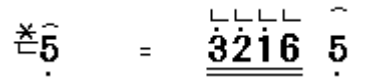
gliss about 3-4 strings into the 5

If the playing note is an index note, gliss through 3-5 strings using your thumb until your thumb is 1-2 string before the playing note, and then pluck the note with your index finger.



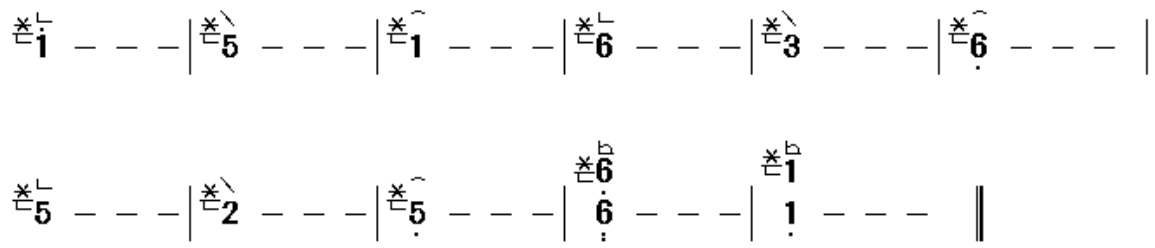
gliss 3-4 strings with the thumb, then pluck with the index finger

If the playing note is a middle finger note, gliss through 3-5 strings using your thumb until your thumb is an octave before the playing note, and then pluck the note with your middle finger.



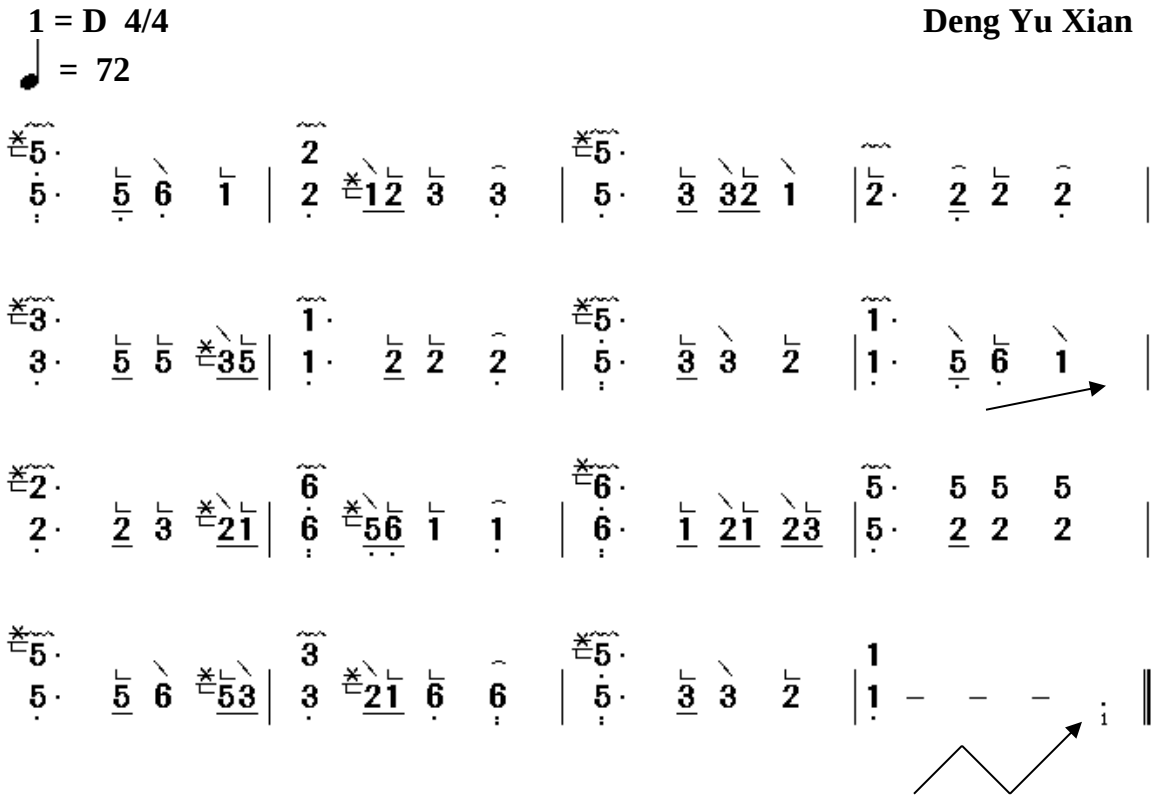
gliss 3-5 strings with the thumb, then pluck with the middle finger

Drill 11



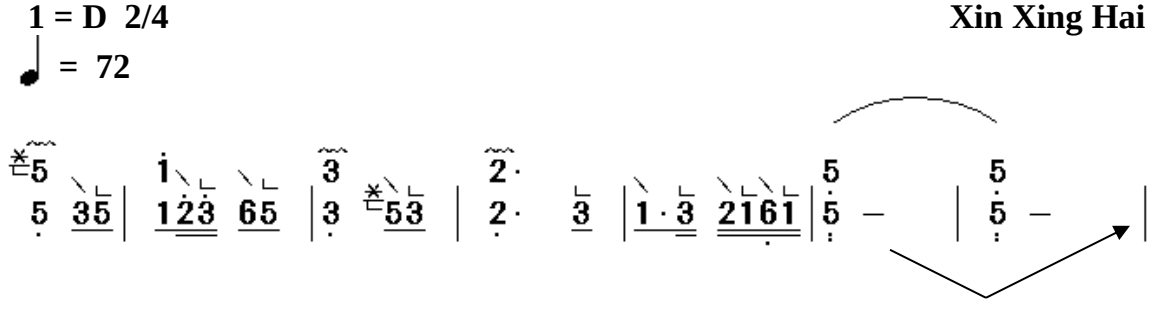
Drill 11 works on different types of gliss. For gliss into an octave, follow the rule like gliss into a thumb playing note.

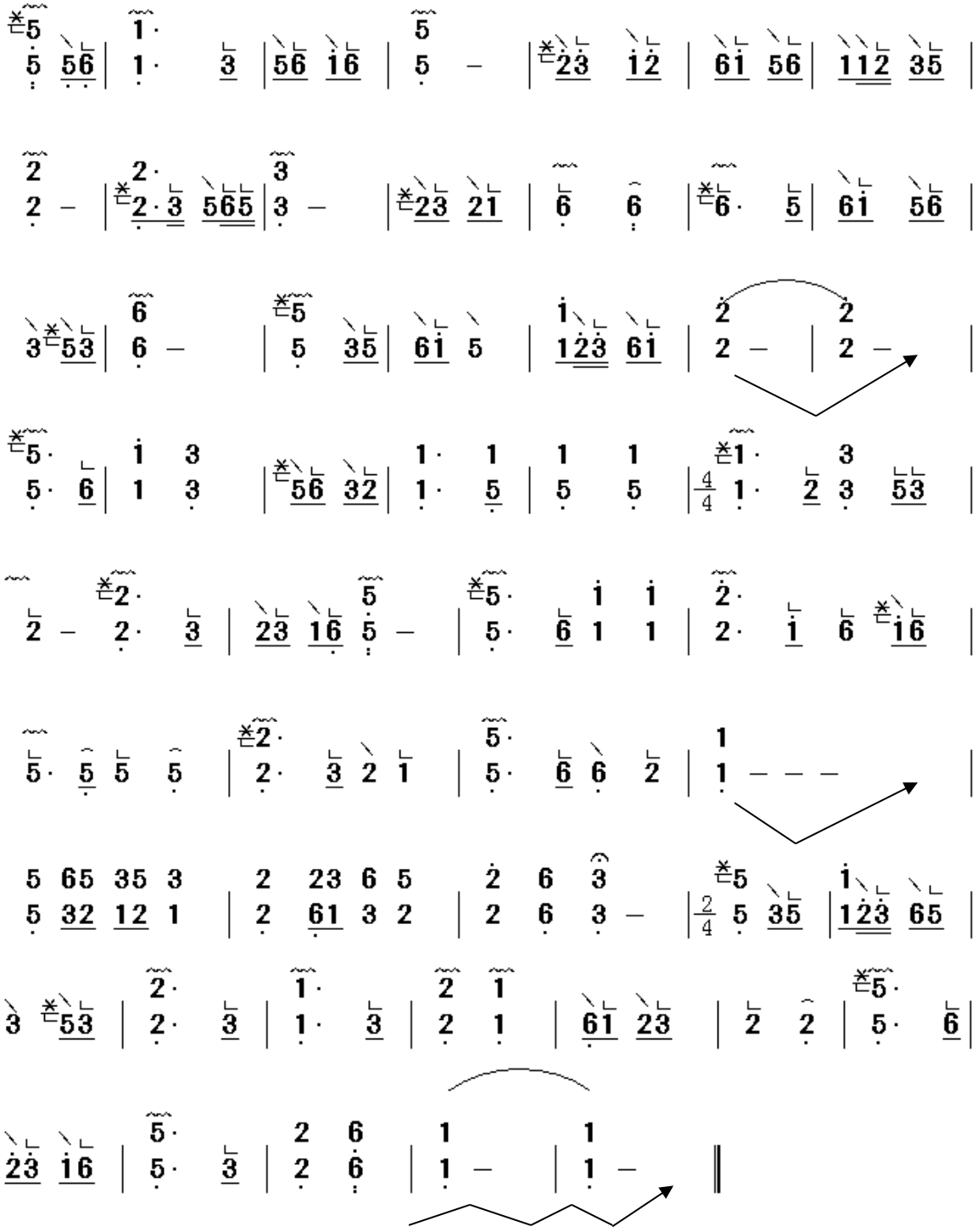
(10) Spring Breeze 望春風



The arrows indicate left hand glissando. Gliss across the strings with left hand index finger and thumb follow the direction of the arrow. If there is the number notation before or after the arrows, that's the indication of where to start gliss and where to stop. E.g. the last glissando of this song stops on the high 1.

(11) Yellow River Tune 黃水謠





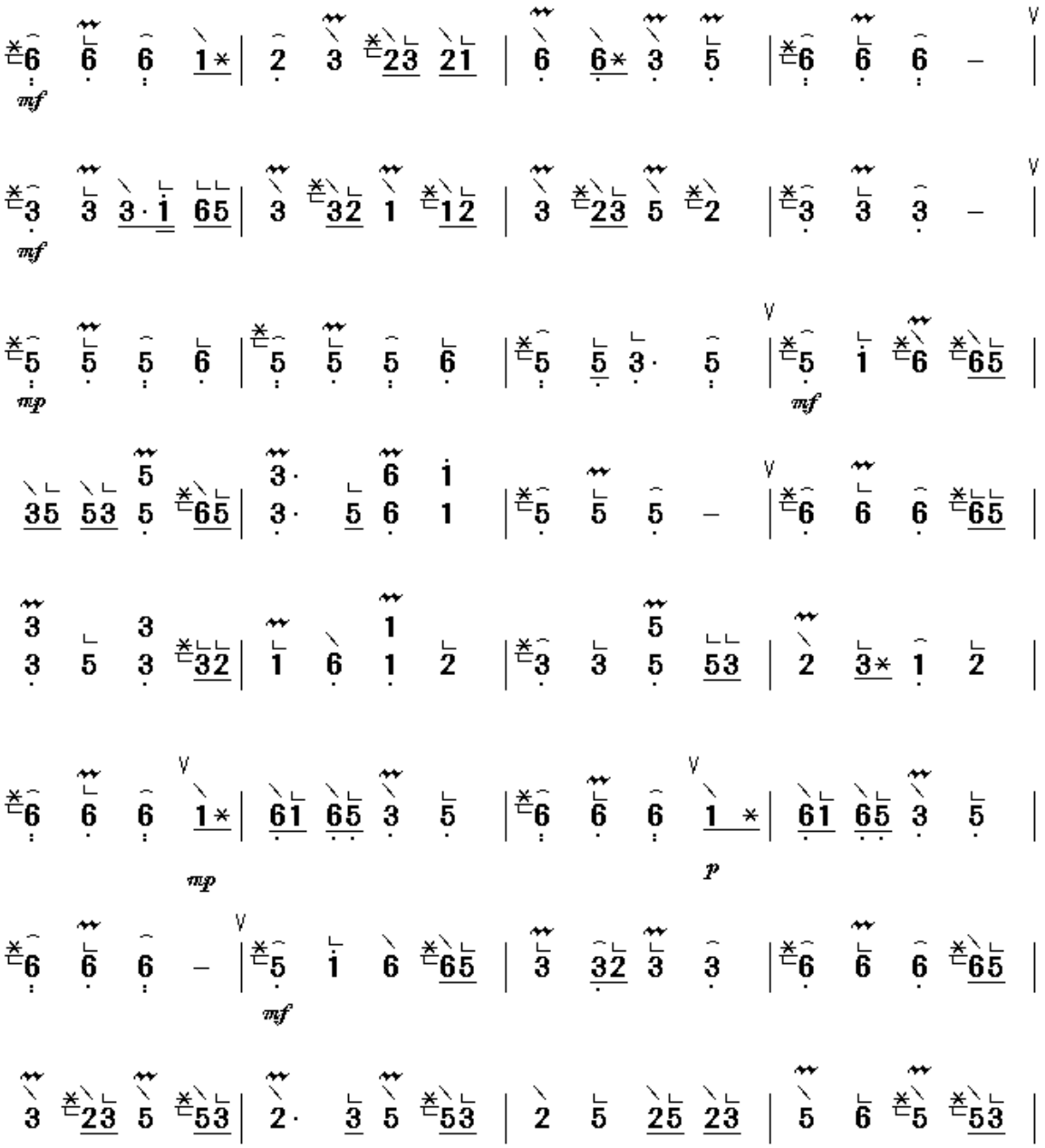
(12) Wild Geese Descending on the Sandbank

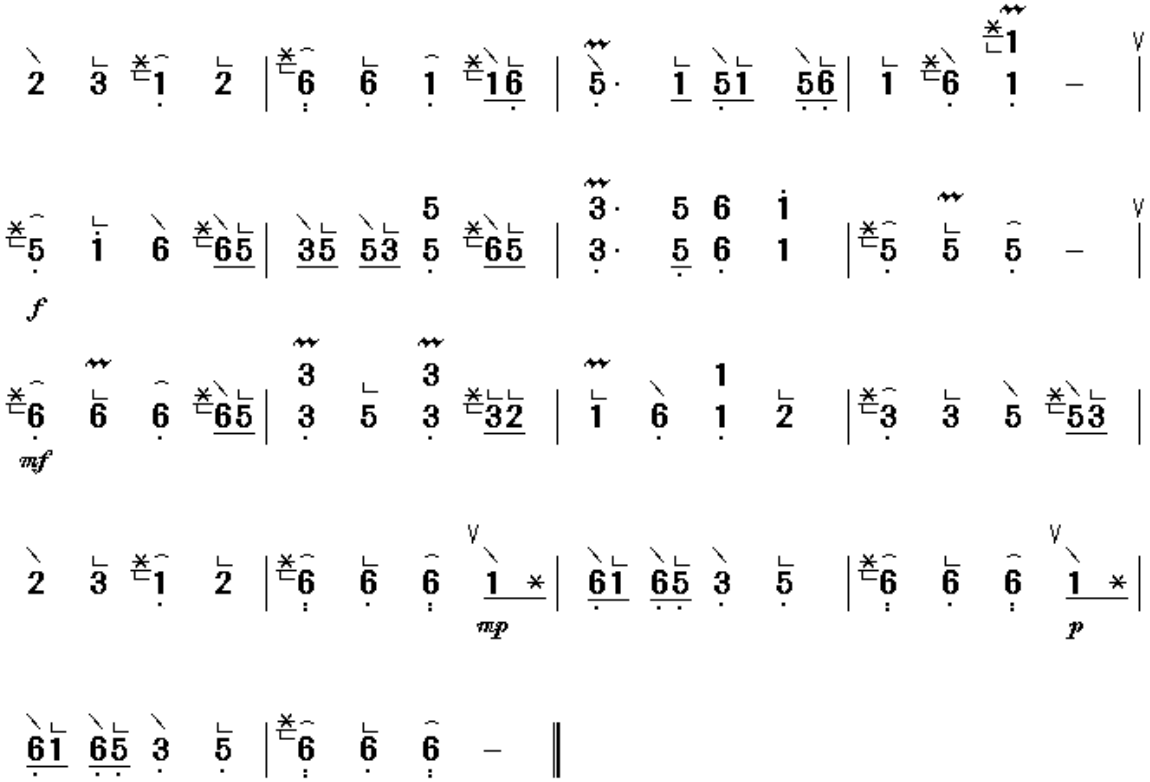
平沙落雁

1 = D 4/4

♩ = 66

Chinese Classics





This is a Chinese classic piece describing wild geese ascending and descending on the sandbank. The song is peaceful and meditating. A lot of glissando is used to portrait the take-off and landing of the wild geese. Play the song slowly and calm, breathe slowly, and do long gliss as the time allows. Also do vibrato on all the long notes.

The original score has some bending portamento, and is modified and omitted to fit this lesson.

V = breath mark

Music Dynamics :

pp = pianissimo = very soft
p = piano = soft
mp = mezzo-piano = moderate soft
mf = mezzo-forte = moderate strong
f = forte = strong
ff = fortissimo = very strong