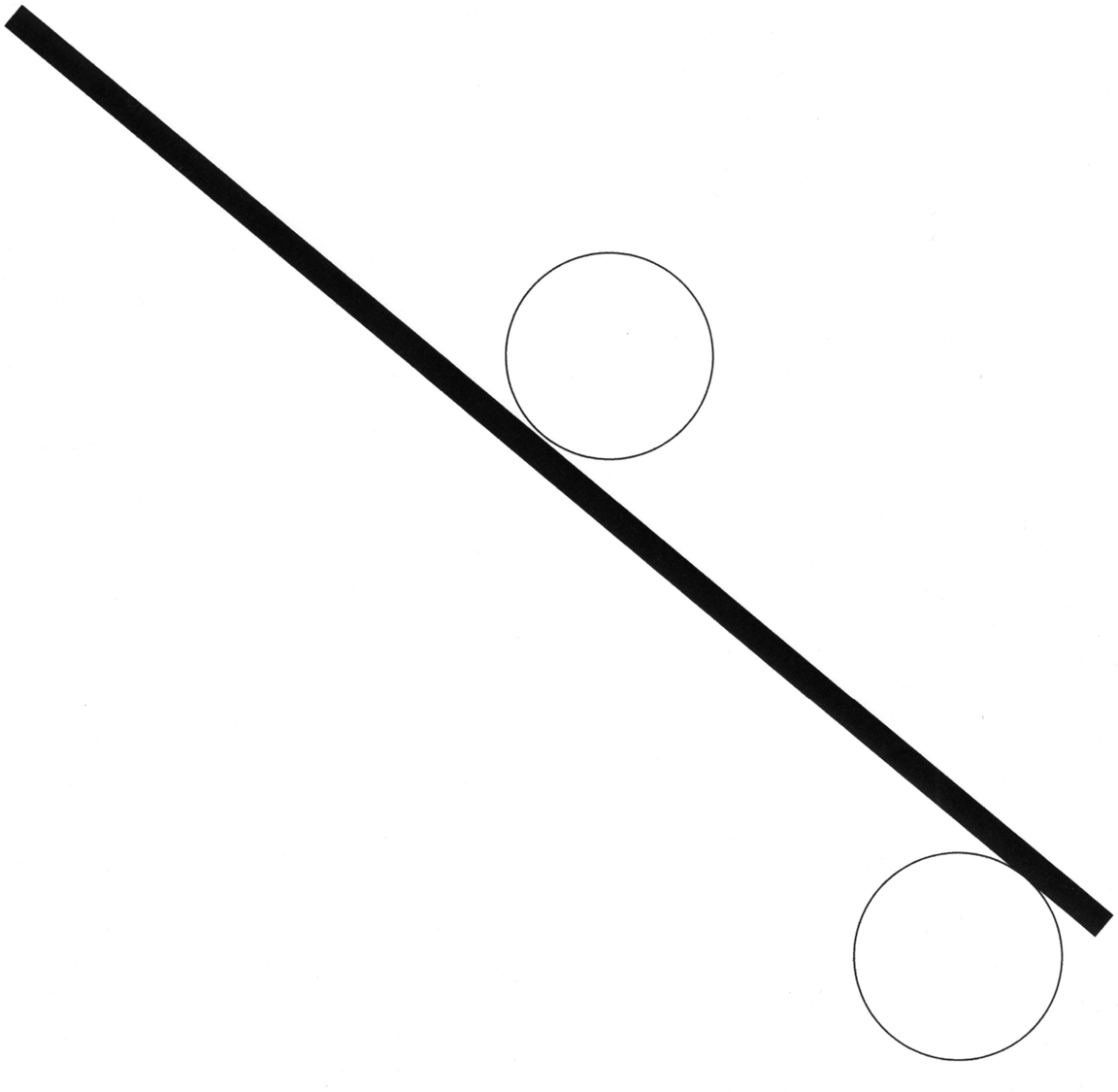


(m)E

for prepared Bass Violin (2024)

by Dan Senn



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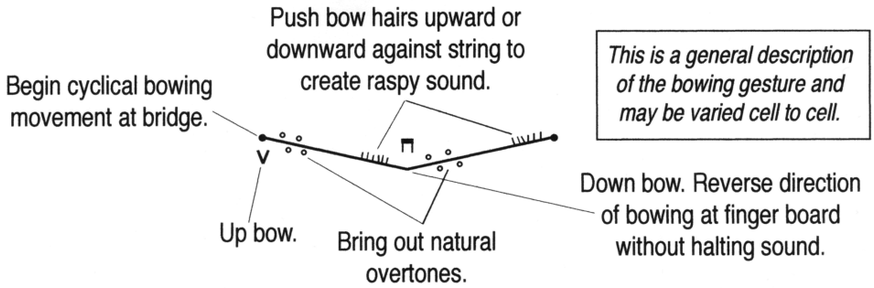
(m)E *for bass violin* by Dan Senn

Introduction

(m)E is for prepared bass violin with each string tuned to an "E" (the A and D-strings require special stops). A special contact microphone, a ***Pinch Mike***, has been developed for this piece. The notated sound is continuous (bow never leaves strings), didgeridoo-like, and accompanied by a video of the same duration. The piece is amplified to create a wall of sound using a minimum of 2 large speakers.

Cyclical Bowing

A cyclical, rough bowing is used throughout as indicated by the following detail which represents a general description of a recurring cycle. *The bow never leaves the strings during the piece.*



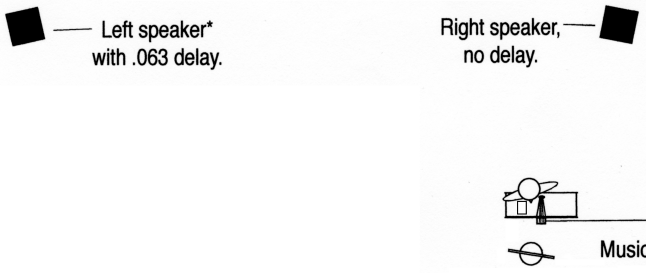
This technique is realized by placing the tip of the bow near the bridge while gradually moving upward bringing out the natural overtones of the strings. Just before the bow length is exhausted, and before the finger board is encountered, push the bow directly perpendicular to the string(s) causing a raspy sound while gradually effecting a reversal of the bow direction. Here, begin a descent toward the bridge and as the bow length is again exhausted, gradually move it perpendicular to the strings to achieve a yet another raspy sound while approaching the bridge. Each cell, within the given duration, receives one of these cycles and as the bow migrates from the lower to upper strings throughout the piece, variances in this technique, even to the extent of creating figure eights instead of circles, are acceptable.

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Miking and Mixing

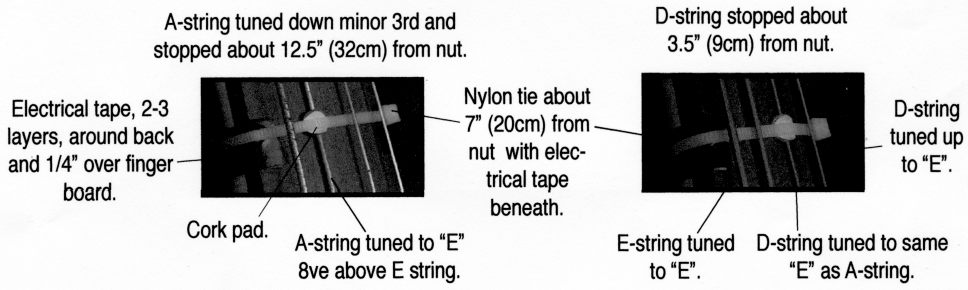
A special ***Pinch Mic*** has been designed for this piece and is available from Newsense Intermedium** (a good all around double bass mic). For long cable runs, a hi-z to lo-z transformer (Radio Shack 274-017) should be used with a balanced cable (preferable in any case). Output from the mic should be sent in mono to 2 large speakers to create a wall of sound for the performance (*see note below).
use a delay of about .063ms on the left channel.

Performance Setup

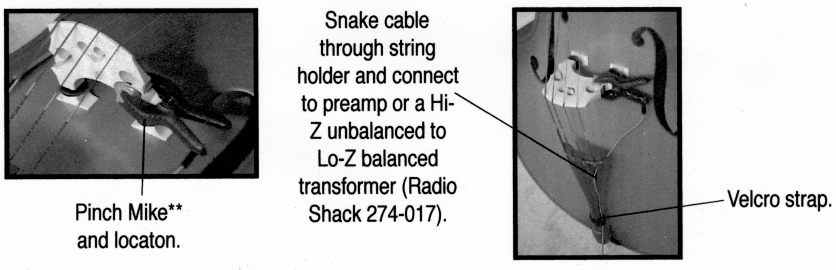


** If additional speakers are placed at back of performance space (this is desirable), please cross channels (right ch. on left side).*

Preparing and Retuning the Instrument



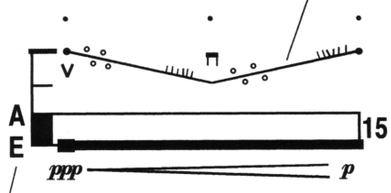
Connecting the Pinch Mike



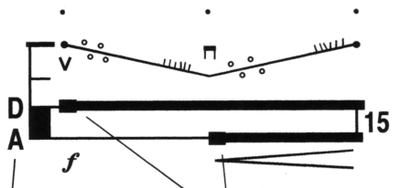
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Beats = 60-72/minute.

Cyclical bowing notation.



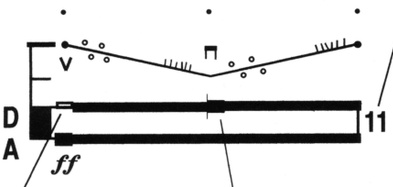
Only the E and A-strings (tuned up to "E") are played for this cell.



Only the A and D-strings (both tuned to "E") are played for this staff.

D-string is joined by A-string (both open).

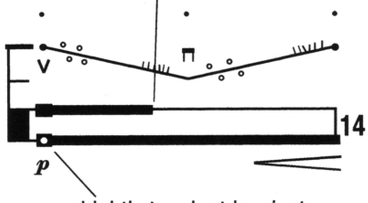
Event has a duration of about 11 beats.



String is stopped directly above cork (finger *just* touching cork).

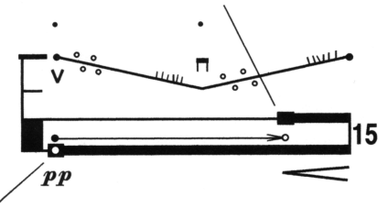
Stop released to open string about 5.5 beats into the event.

Release open string about 6 beats after beginning. *Space equals time.*



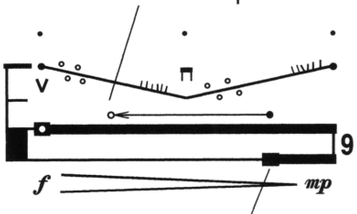
Lightly touch string *just* above fixed stop to bring out overtones.

Bring in open string about 12 beats into event.



Lightly touch string just above fixed stop and gradually slide downward to bring out multiple overtones.

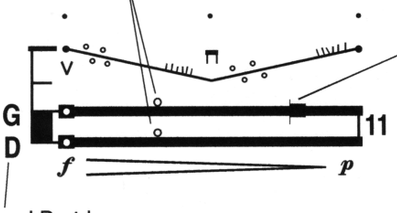
Reach down and lightly touch string gradually pulling it upward to fixed stop.



Bring in open string about 6.5 beats into event.

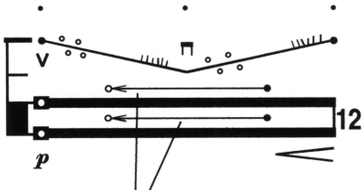
Sound is continuous as bow does not leave strings.

Lightly touch strings at a (player choice) point below the fixed stop.



Release to open string about 8 beats into the event.

Only the G and D-strings (both tuned to an E natural) are played for this cell.

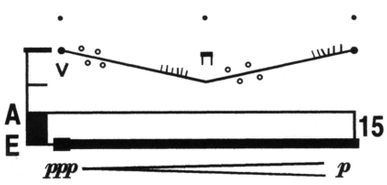


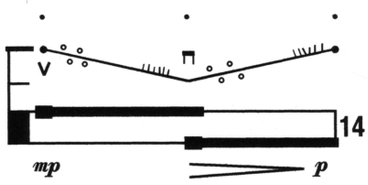
Reach down open and lightly touch open strings gradually pulling upward to closest fixed stop.

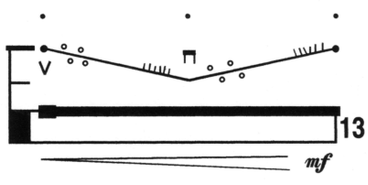
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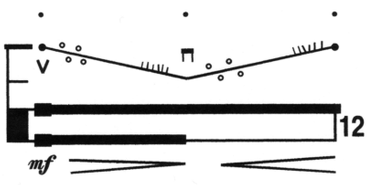
(m)E *for bass violin*

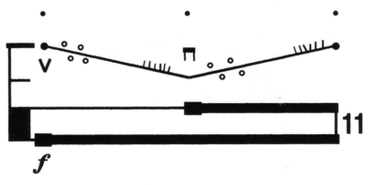
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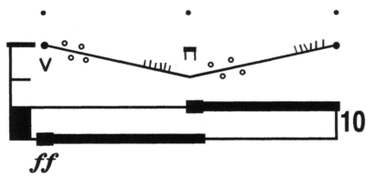


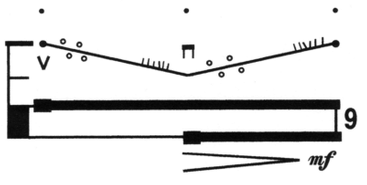


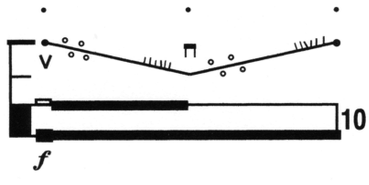


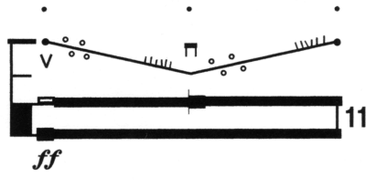


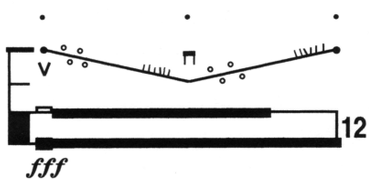


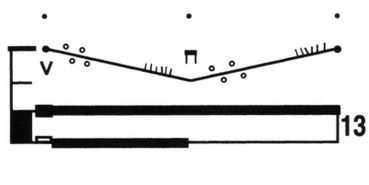


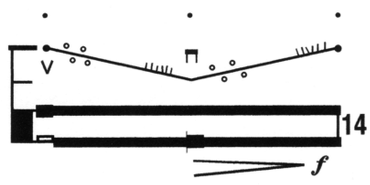


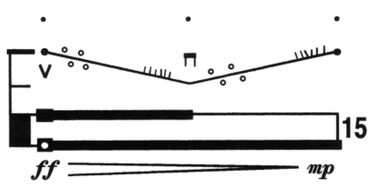


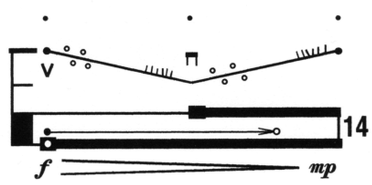


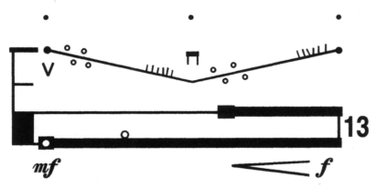


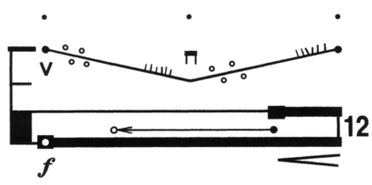


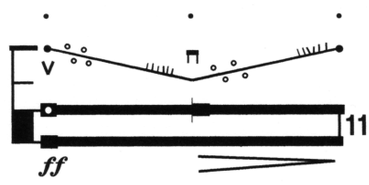


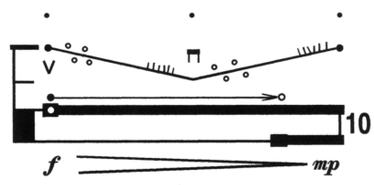


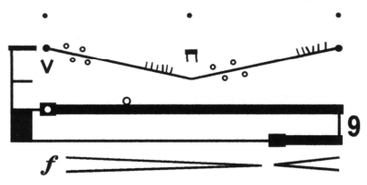


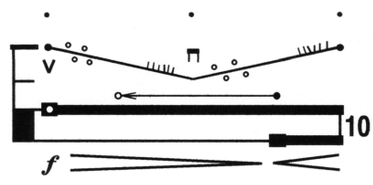


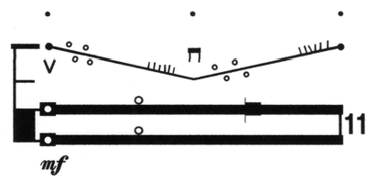


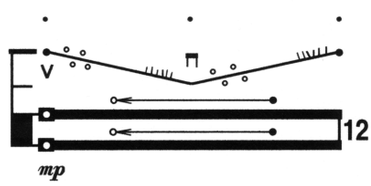


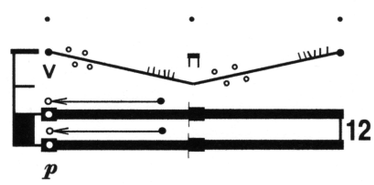


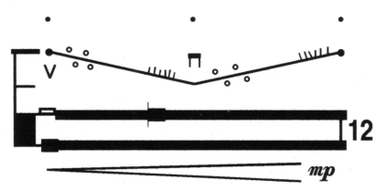




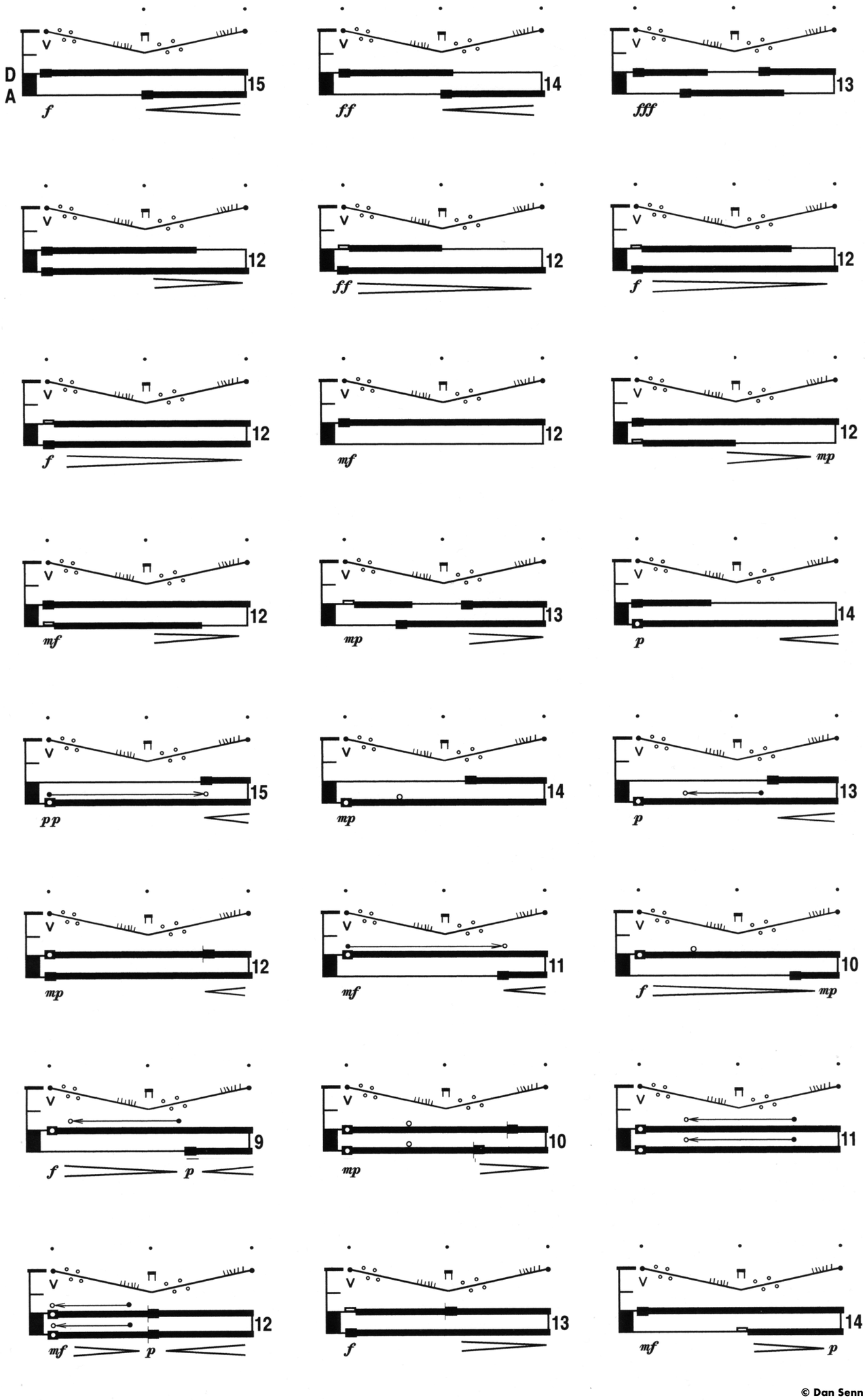




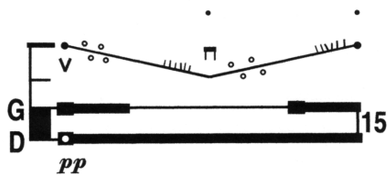


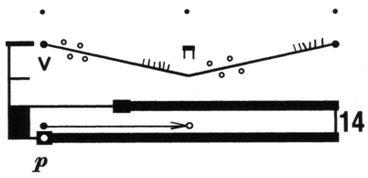


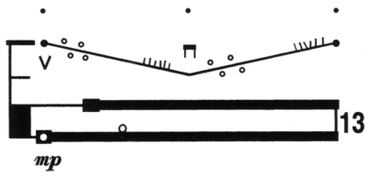
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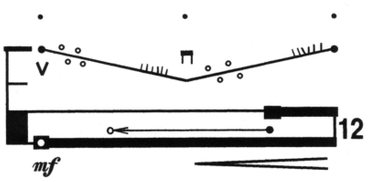


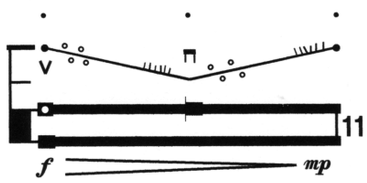
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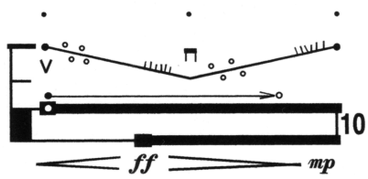


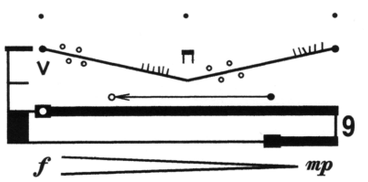


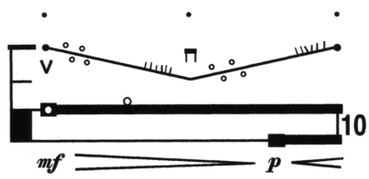


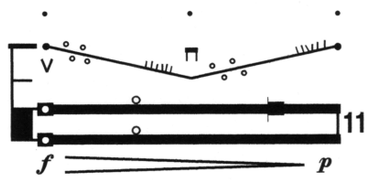


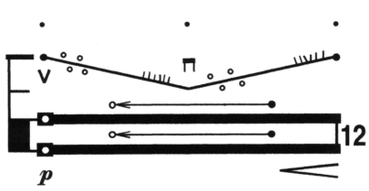


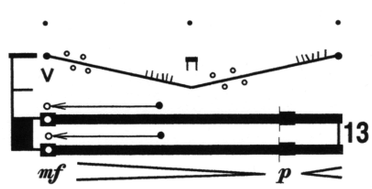


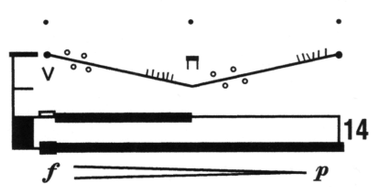


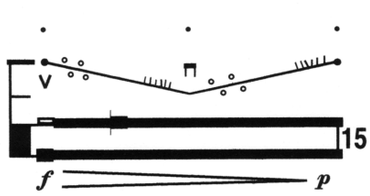


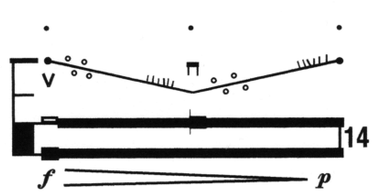


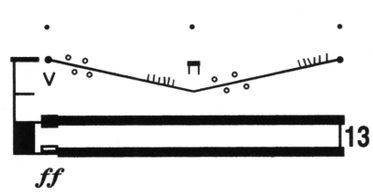


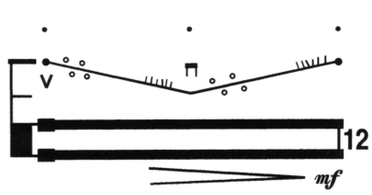


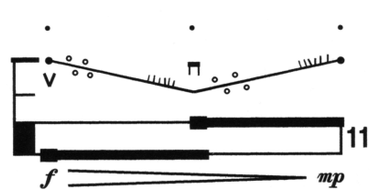


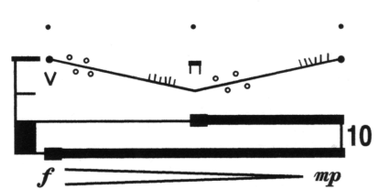


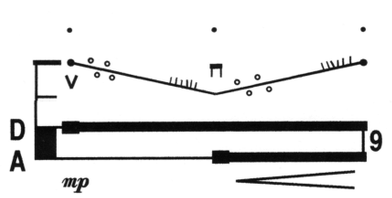


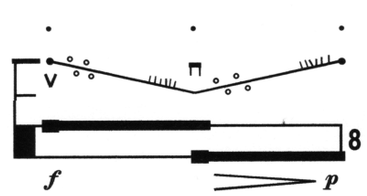


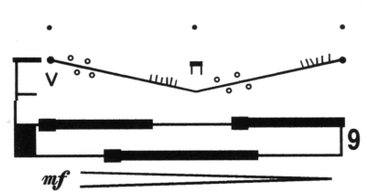


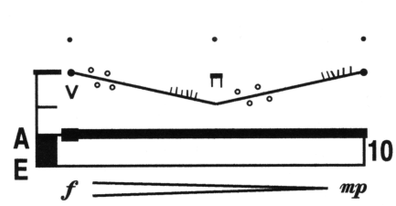


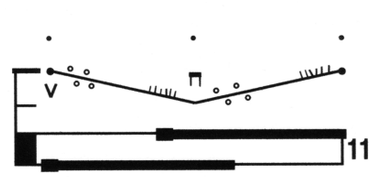


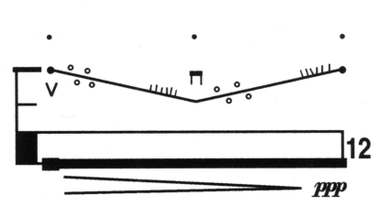












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