

# How to Play Cello

## Lesson 3

**WATCH THE LESSON AT:** <https://youtu.be/KwEtkE8Vhs>

*This is your confidential link. Please do not share, though some other course participants will have access to the same link.  
Feel free to leave questions as comments on the video.*

### Bow Hold

- bent thumb on tip of finger
- 2nd (middle) finger across from thumb

Still need help with the bow hold? Check out this public video from Emily:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=md13Y76EsBg>

### Windshield Wipers

- practice doing 10 reps of raising and lowering the bow with a perfect bow hold
- slow and controlled movements, fix the bow hold immediately if anything gets weird

### Bow Directions

- Down Bow (usually played first, starts at frog and moves outward/away from cello)
- Up Bow (starts at tip and moves inward/towards cello)
- 



**down bow**  
starts at frog



**up bow**  
starts at tip

### Bowing the Open Strings

- apply some rosin to your bow
- use a cloth (like an old t-shirt) to wipe off any rosin dust
- place your bow in the “sound spot” (halfway between end of fingerboard and bridge)
- tilt the stick of the bow slightly towards you
- keep your bow **straight** (parallel to the bridge), use a full-length mirror or camera to observe your bow angle
- bow by opening the arm at the elbow, keep the right shoulder relaxed

### **D major scale with Bow**

- You should have the scale memorized from practicing pizzicato, but if you don't, music is below
- start with 2 long bows on each note of the scale
- work on playing all the way up and down the scale

The image shows a musical staff in bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes of the D major scale are written from left to right: D, E, F#, G, A, B, C#, and D. Above each note is a number indicating the finger to use: 0 for D, 1 for E, 3 for F#, 4 for G, 0 for A, 1 for B, 3 for C#, and 4 for the final D. The notes are placed on the staff lines: D on the 2nd line, E on the 3rd line, F# on the 4th line, G on the 5th line, A on the 1st line, B on the 2nd line, C# on the 3rd line, and D on the 4th line.

**To Practice:** Work on windshield wipers and getting your bow hold to feel comfortable away from the cello. Then work on bowing open strings while monitoring your bow angle by using a full-length mirror or camera. Once you can comfortably bow the open strings with a good sound and straight bow, add the D major notes, starting with 2 bow strokes per note.

*Thank you for enrolling in Emily's How to Play Cello course! If you enjoy the course, please recommend it to others. Please do not share the unlisted links with anyone as all views on the video are monitored. You may leave questions in the comment section on the videos. For feedback and other inquiries, email [emilyplayscello@gmail.com](mailto:emilyplayscello@gmail.com) with subject line "Cello Course"*