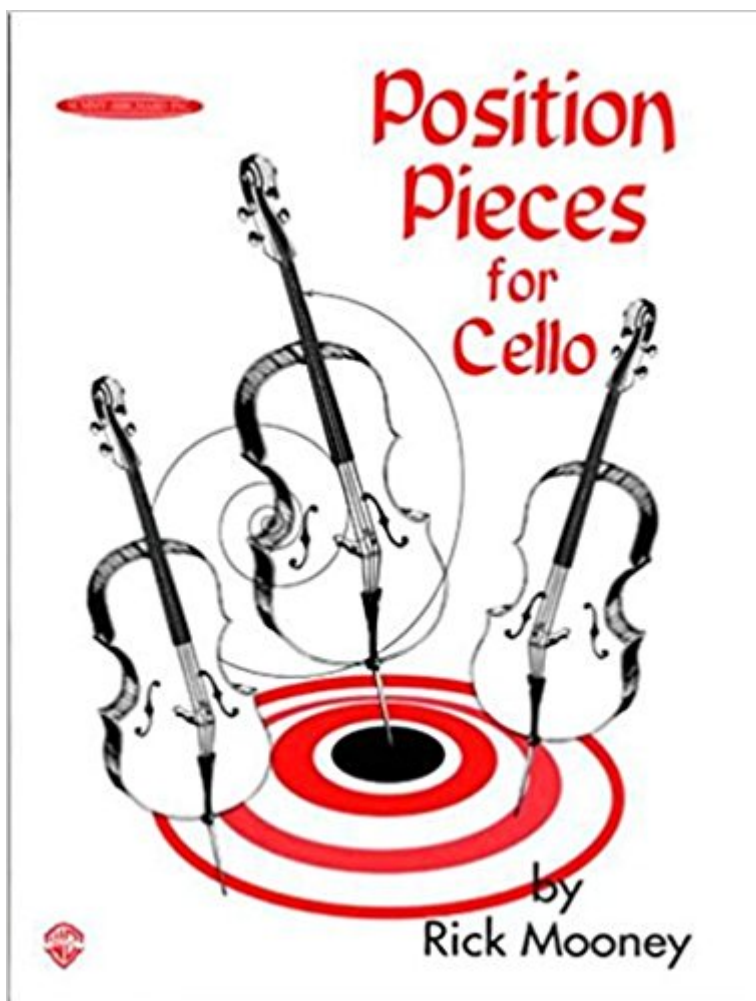


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# Position Pieces For Cello



## Synopsis

Position Pieces for Cello is designed to give students a logical and fun way to learn their way around the fingerboard. Each hand position is introduced with exercises called "Target Practice," "Geography Quiz," and "Names and Numbers." Following these exercises are tuneful cello duets which have been specifically composed to require students to play in that hand position. In this way, students gain a thorough knowledge of how to find the hand positions, and once there, which notes are possible to play. Using these pieces (with names like "I Was a Teenage Monster," "The Irish Tenor," and "I've Got the Blues, Baby"), position study on the cello has never been so much fun!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

My teacher uses this method book along with many others, but I like the layout of this one. It presents things in a certain order to make you understand it, and it doesn't give fingerings for every single note like some books. First couple bars or lines have the fingerings then they start getting scarcer and scarcer as the piece goes on. That way you are not using them as a crutch but if you get stumped you can look back at the beginning to figure it out. Unlike Suzuki books which offer two sets of fingers for every single note. I also like the written exercises at the beginning of each new position so that you can make sure you "get it" before you actually play. Nice musically flowing little etudes.

This book has been very helpful for me. I've been using it within lessons with my teacher. I have

never been that comfortable playing or sight-reading further down the neck but repeating the exercises and pieces in this book have helped me get used to those awkward positions. The book is also helping me sight-read the higher notes and also sight-read in different clefs. Minus one star for the binding of this book. It's pretty thick and is bound like a paperback novel making it very difficult to keep open on your music stand. I had to batter it a bit by pressing down the spine really hard just to be able to read the notes close to the middle. I wish they made a spiral bound version.

I use Position Pieces with all of my lower-intermediate students, and I've spoken with other teachers who do the same. The positions are introduced in a careful way, the pieces are short and clever, and they're all duets, which gives the student an opportunity to make music with the teacher. Unlike the Suzuki cello books, Mooney doesn't tell the student when to shift. He simply provides a finger number at the point of each shift and leaves it to the student to learn how to deduce the meaning of the number. The first time a note is used outside of first position, the finger number is always given. Use of positions on the lower strings is included. In the first 3/4 of the book, each piece alternates between first position and the position being studied, but the final half-dozen pieces are more adventurous. Simple pencil exercises test the student's academic understanding of the material. Mooney's other books are good, but this one is essential.

Really great companion to whatever method you are using. The cello shifts so much that this is useful to help teach/learn what position you are actually in. Good exercise.

This book has been wonderful to help me, an adult, learn to play the cello outside of just 1st position! Even though I have a history of music when I was younger, changing positions has kicked my butt!! This makes it easy to understand: you have a picture of where your fingers should be, exercises to fill-in-the blank to test your knowledge, and songs to play in the each new position you learn. You can go at your own pace or, if you have an instructor, I'm sure they will guide you on what pace to go in. This is a lifesaver for me! I recommend this book to any adult, or younger person, who struggles as you progress out of first position only pieces.

Being a "mature" cello student, I needed studies that would help me to visualize where I am on the cello. Though the pieces in this book are not particularly challenging, they are exactly what I need to familiarize myself with the different positions. The pieces switch back and forth from "home" (first) position to the one you are practicing, giving a valuable study in shifting to the new position. The

written exercises at the beginning of each change in position are a help to establish finger spacing before starting out. I have been pleased with all the books by Rick Mooney that I have purchased (Thumb Position 1 & 2, Double Stops 1 and Position Pieces for Cello 1). Good study for any beginning student learning the different positions on the cello.

Good theory behind book. However for an adult the studies are childish. Space shuttle shuffle and similar names just irritate me. There are better studies for older students that use classical movements as foundation so they sound good and teach position.

There are tons of duets that systematically teach the higher positions up to thumb. There's plenty of mixing of positions but with emphasis on a particular position/finger pattern. There are enough songs in each position that a student can skip ones they find uninteresting and still have enough to learn what needs learning. These positions aren't all that common, and it's rather tedious going through each finger pattern. Maybe consider skipping right to Fun in Thumb when a student finishes book 1 instead of giving them book 2.

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