



ELEMENTARY INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC!



Cello

Weekly Focus: Finger Placement and Intonation

We are going to learn (or review) two different finger patterns that will require listening carefully to yourself and adjusting intonation. The first finger pattern we will be focusing on is using the notes on the D string: E, F#, and G. When playing these notes, you will have both your second and third finger down when playing f#. Here is a picture of this finger pattern:

SHAPING THE LEFT HAND

D STRING NOTES

Step 1 Shape your left hand as shown. Be certain your palm faces you.

0 = Open string
1 = 1st finger
2 = 2nd finger
3 = 3rd finger
4 = 4th finger

Step 2 Bring your hand to the fingerboard. Place your fingers on the D string, keeping your hand shaped as shown below. Be sure your thumb is behind the second finger and slightly bent.

G is played with 4 fingers on the D string.

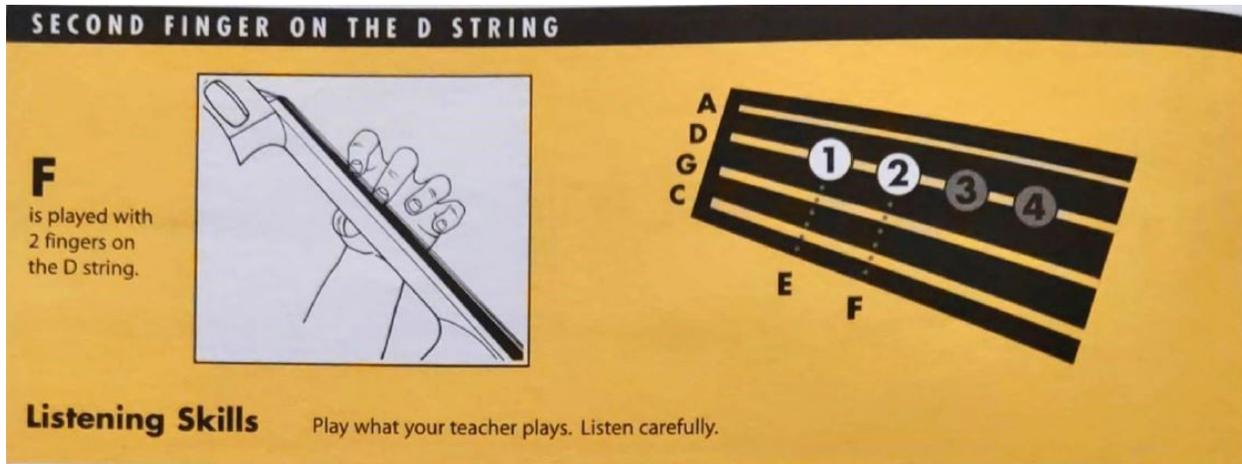
F# is played with 3 fingers on the D string.

E is played with 1 finger on the D string.

Listening Skills

Essential Elements for Strings, Violin Book 1, by Michael Allen, Robert Gillespie, Pamela Tellejohn Hayes. John Higgins, arr. Publisher: Hal Leonard. Page 6.

Next, we have our second finger pattern which includes D, E, F, and G. There is one very small, very important difference between these patterns and that is the difference between F# and F. For F (also called F natural) we will **not** have our 3rd finger down on the string. Instead, to play F natural, we will only have 2 fingers down. Here is a picture of this finger pattern:



Essential Elements for Strings, Violin Book 1, by Michael Allen, Robert Gillespie, Pamela Tellejohn Hayes. John Higgins, arr. Publisher: Hal Leonard. Page 32.

These two notes should sound different so make sure you can hear the difference when you try both these finger patterns out. One important part of playing these two patterns correctly is having Perfect Orchestra Posture (or POP) which will be explained later in the handout.

Warm Up:

Try playing the notes of your D scale if you know all of them! As a reminder you start on the D string and play D, E, F#, G then move to the A string and play A, B, C#, and D. First try to play this pizzicato (with just your fingers) and then if you feel comfortable feel free to play it with your bow. You can play each note once with the bow or you can experiment with different bowing patterns.

Musical Excerpts to Practice Our Two Fingering Patterns

Strengthen fingers by exercising them!

Fingering Pattern One: Remember, for this pattern, we hold our 2nd and 3rd finger down to create an F#. The following song uses F#:

FINGER PATTERN NUMBER 1

“normal” – High 2 – F Sharp

Mary Had a Little Lamb (see music on next page)

Mary Had a Little Lamb

ALL in Finger Pattern Number 1 (High 2s)

Traditonal

Violin

Viola

Cello

Musical score for Violin, Viola, and Cello, measures 1-4. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The Violin part starts with a measure rest, then plays a sequence of quarter notes: D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5. The Viola and Cello parts play a steady quarter-note accompaniment: D3, E3, F#3, G3, A3, B3, C4, D4.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Musical score for Violin, Viola, and Cello, measures 5-8. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The Violin part starts with a measure rest, then plays a sequence of quarter notes: D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5. The Viola and Cello parts play a steady quarter-note accompaniment: D3, E3, F#3, G3, A3, B3, C4, D4.

Fingering Pattern Two: Remember, this pattern has only our 2nd finger down and not both 2nd and 3rd which results in an F natural:

FINGER PATTERN NUMBER 2

“new” – Low 2 – F Natural

Minor *Mary LOST* her Little Lamb (see music on next page)

Mary LOST her Little Lamb

ALL in Finger Pattern Number 2 (LOW 2s)

Traditional

Musical score for Violin, Viola, and Cello. The score is in 4/4 time and D major. The Violin part starts with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The Viola and Cello parts play a steady quarter-note accompaniment: G3, A3, B3, C4.

Musical score for Violin, Viola, and Cello. The score is in 4/4 time and D major. The Violin part starts with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The Viola and Cello parts play a steady quarter-note accompaniment: G3, A3, B3, C4.

Make sure that while you are playing these two variations you are focusing on your Perfect Orchestra Posture!

D.O.P.

Perfect Orchestra Posture!!!

- Sitting/Standing up tall – feet flat and spine tall!
- Instrument in correct place
 - Cello: Hamster Hide-y Hole, Peg behind left ear, facing forward, knees hugging, wings up
 - Violin/Viola: instrument into neck, look at your fingers, keep Froggie safe, elbow under and loose, fingertip playing
- Check for loose bow hold
 - (tap fingers for violin/viola, float and place for cello)
- Straight bows = big sound!

MUSIC VIDEO LESSONS

For Cello Lessons, go to Seattle Public Schools YouTube site.

<https://www.youtube.com/c/SeattlePublicSchoolsTV>