



ELEMENTARY INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC!



Viola

Weekly Focus: Finger Placement and Intonation


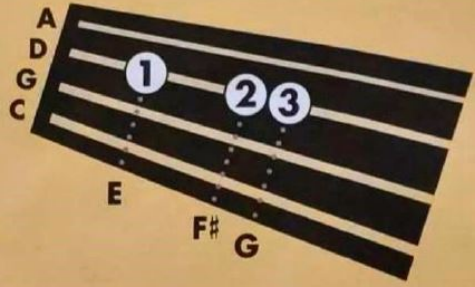
We are going to learn (or review) two different finger patterns that will require listening carefully to yourself and adjusting intonation. The first finger pattern we will be focusing on is using the notes on the D string: E, F#, and G. When playing these notes, your second finger will need to be up next to your third finger. This is what we call a “high two” and what makes the note an 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 first finger forms a square with the fingerboard, and your wrist is relaxed and straight.

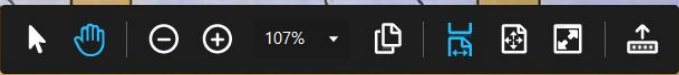
G is played with 3 fingers on the D string.

F# is played with 2 fingers on the D string.

E is played with 1 finger on the D string.



Listening Skills



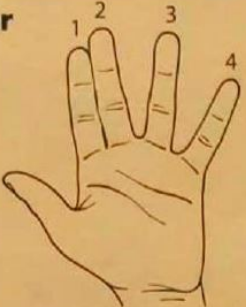
Essential Elements for Strings, Violin Book 1, by Michael Allen, Robert Gillespie, Pamela Tellejohn Hayes. John Higgins, arr. Publisher: Hal Leonard. Page 6.

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 have our second finger move to right next to our first finger. This is also called “low two” and produces an F natural. Here is a picture of this finger pattern:

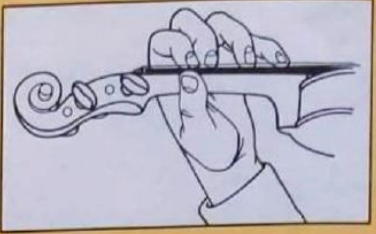
NEW FINGER PATTERN

Low 2nd Finger

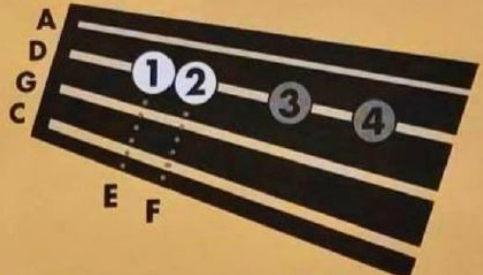
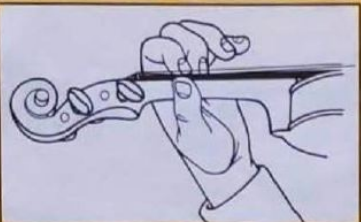
Step 1
Shape your left hand as shown. Be certain your palm faces you. Notice your 2nd finger lightly touches your 1st finger.



Step 2
Bring your hand to the fingerboard. Your 1st and 2nd fingers touch. There is a space between your 2nd and 3rd fingers, and between your 3rd and 4th fingers.



F
is played with low 2nd finger on the D string.



Listening Skills Play what your teacher plays. Listen carefully.

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, this pattern has our 2nd finger next to the 3rd finger, this results in an F#. The following song uses F# or our “high two”

FINGER PATTERN NUMBER 1

“normal” – High 2 – F Sharp

Mary Had a Little Lamb (see music below)

Mary Had a Little Lamb

ALL in Finger Pattern Number 1 (High 2s)

Traditonal

Violin

Viola

Cello

The first system of the musical score for 'Mary Had a Little Lamb' is shown. It consists of three staves: Violin (top), Viola (middle), and Cello (bottom). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The music begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The first measure of the Violin part has a finger number '1' written above the first note. The music is in a simple, repetitive pattern.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

The second system of the musical score for 'Mary Had a Little Lamb' is shown. It consists of three staves: Violin (top), Viola (middle), and Cello (bottom). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The music continues from the first system. The first measure of the Violin part has a finger number '6' written above the first note. The music is in a simple, repetitive pattern.

Fingering Pattern Two: Remember, this pattern has our 2nd finger next to our 1st finger, this results in an F natural or “low Two”

FINGER PATTERN NUMBER 2

“new” – Low 2 – F Natural

Minor *Mary LOST her Little Lamb (see music below)*

Mary LOST her Little Lamb

ALL in Finger Pattern Number 2 (LOW 2s)

Traditional

The image shows two systems of musical notation for Violin, Viola, and Cello. The first system includes staves for Violin, Viola, and Cello. The second system includes staves for Violin (labeled 'Vln.'), Viola (labeled 'Vla.'), and Cello (labeled 'Vc.'). The music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first system has a pink vertical line at the beginning of the first measure. The second system starts with a measure number '5' above the first measure.

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

P.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 Viola Lessons, go to Seattle Public Schools YouTube site.

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