

Viola Time

2nd Edition

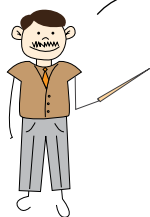


BOOK 2
DEVELOPING SHIFTING, VIBRATO,
2ND AND 3RD POSITION

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RGP Shifting Method



Shifting is when you move your whole left hand up or down the fingerboard in order to change notes.

In Book 1 every piece only used the 1st position. In Book 2 you will learn how to play in 2nd and 3rd position.

The RGP technique helps you to move between 1st, 2nd, and 3rd position.

Release the finger pressure from the string

Glide the whole hand (thumb included) along the neck/fingerboard of the violin. The shifting finger will 'ghost' its way up the string as it lightly touches the string while shifting.

Press the finger down once it has arrived on the new note.

1st finger shifting without accidentals



Exercise 1: 1st-3rd Position shifting in C major

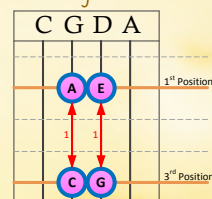
Use Diagram 1 on the right to help you with seeing how far your hand should shift to reach the 3rd position notes.



ghost between shifts and listen to the pitch

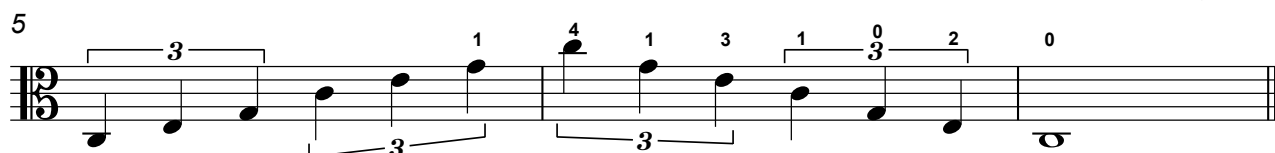
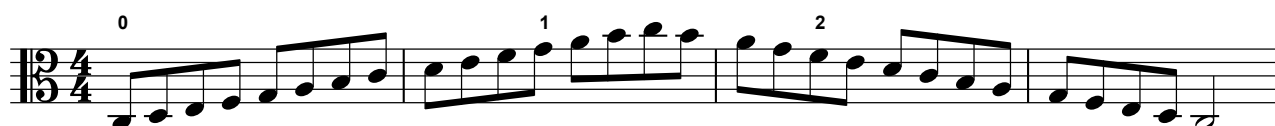


Diagram 1

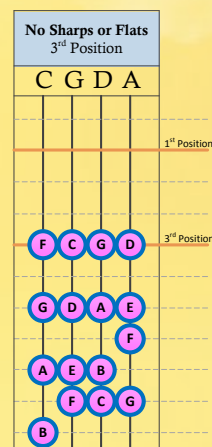


Scale and Arpeggio of C major

Use Finger Chart 1 to help you determine where the semitones and tones are when playing with no sharps or flats (which are the keys of C major or A minor), in 3rd position!



Finger chart 1



Kayaking down the Tarwin

Try playing Kayaking down the Tarwin while reading the music.

Then, when you feel extra confident, close the book and try playing it from memory!

Playing from memory is a great skill to develop, and makes any performance even more special for the player and the audience!

Andante ♩ = 116

poco rall

Mark in the semitones of the scale with your pencil to help you remember whether your fingers should be a tone apart or a semitone apart!

Scale and Arpeggio of A melodic and harmonic minor

Points for Parents

Purpose

- To practise shifting from 1st to 3rd position with the 1st finger, using the Release, Glide, and Press (RGP) technique as shown in Diagram 1.
- To learn the note names in 3rd position, remembering that there is a B natural.
- To practise sight-reading in 1st and 3rd position.
- To practise playing from memory

Tips

- Listen carefully to the 'ghost' note when shifting (the sound the finger makes when lightly gliding between 1st and 3rd position) and only press down on the string when you can hear the correct pitch of the new note.
- Without using the bow, hold the violin and place the fingers on the fingerboard while saying the note names aloud in 3rd position. Finger Chart 1 can help you identify whether fingers are a tone or a semitone apart.

Teacher Checklist

- Can shift using the RGP technique.
- Listens to the 'ghost' note while gliding the finger up or down the string.
- Student shifts using the whole hand, and the thumb always remains opposite the pointer finger.
- Can play from memory.

Theory

- Poco rall ... stands for poco rallentando which means gradually becoming a little slower.
- A dot preceding a note lengthens it by half of its value. i.e. a dotted minim lasts for a minim plus a crotchet (3 crotchet beats in total).

2nd finger shifting with 1 flat

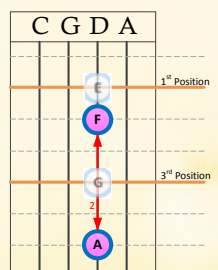
Scale and arpeggio of D harmonic and melodic minor

Notice the figure 3 inside a bracket over the notes of line 3? This is called a triplet configuration. This means that 3 crotchet beats are played in the space of 2!

Exercise 8: 1st-3rd position shifting in F major

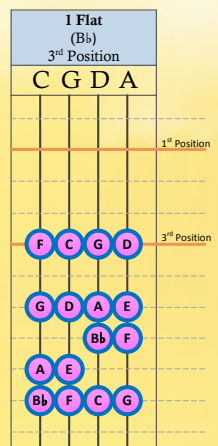
This exercise shifts between an F to an A as shown in Diagram 4. Notice how the E and F begin close together and then spread apart once in 3rd position.

Diagram 4



Scale and arpeggio of F major

Finger chart 4



Sea Biscuit

The term 'swing' is used to describe a unique feel to playing music, commonly used in jazz styles. It loosens the rhythm of quavers.

A triplet occurs when 3 notes are played in the space of 2. This rhythm can be said as 'tri-o-la'.

Syncopation is when there is an interruption to the regular flow of the rhythm.



Swing ♩ = 120

1 *mp*

9

17

25

31

39 *mf*

47

Points for Parents

Purpose

- To practise shifting from 1st to 3rd position using the 2nd finger as shown in Diagram 4 on the previous page.
- To revise playing in a swing style.
- To learn playing with triplets (3 quaver beats in the space of 2).

Tips

- Practise saying the rhythm in time with the metronome on the bars, which use syncopation and triplets.
- Learn where the semitones lie in 3rd position by studying finger chart 4 (page 12)

Teacher Checklist

- Can play all the notes in tune and in time with the metronome.
- Uses the RGP shifting technique.
- Understands where the semitones lie in 1st and 3rd position in the key of F major and/or D minor.

Theory

Let's find out the key signature! It has one flat, so it must be in either D minor or F major. However, since it ends on an D and has many C#s throughout the piece it is in the key of D minor (C# is the 7th scale degree of D minor and is often raised by a semitone in minor keys to change the colour of the melody).