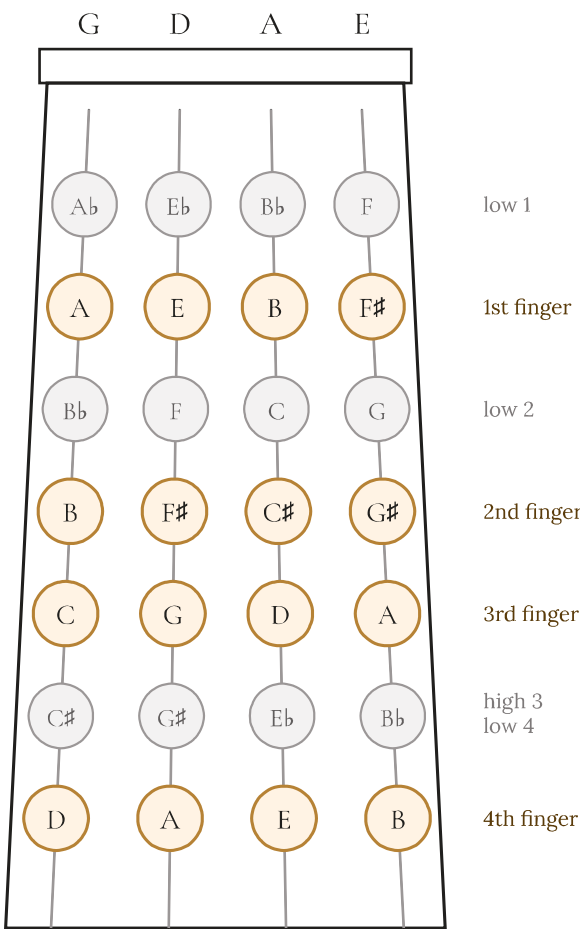


The Violin Fingerboard

Every note within reach of the hand in first position, and where the hand moves next. Gold rows are the four fingers of the first-position frame; the pale rows in between are the notes you reach by leaning a finger back or forward.

The fingerboard, note by note Strings tuned in fifths — G D A E, low to high



The neck as the player sees it, looking down from the scroll. Gold circles are the four fingers of the first-position frame; pale circles are the leaning notes between them.

	G LOWEST	D	A	E HIGHEST
open no finger	G	D	A	E
— 1 semitone	G $\sharp$ /A $\flat$	D $\sharp$ /E $\flat$	A $\sharp$ /B $\flat$	F
1st finger 2 semitones	A	E	B	F $\sharp$ /G $\flat$
2nd, low 3 semitones	A $\sharp$ /B $\flat$	F	C	G
2nd finger 4 semitones	B	F $\sharp$ /G $\flat$	C $\sharp$ /D $\flat$	G $\sharp$ /A $\flat$
3rd finger 5 semitones	C	G	D	A
3rd, high 6 semitones	C $\sharp$ /D $\flat$	G $\sharp$ /A $\flat$	D $\sharp$ /E $\flat$	A $\sharp$ /B $\flat$
4th finger 7 semitones	D	A	E	B

Read a column downwards and you have that string from the open note to the fourth finger. Where two names share a box they are the same pitch spelled two ways — B $\flat$ in a flat key, A $\sharp$ in a sharp one.

There are no frets — the lines are where your ear says they are. **Open** means the string sounds on its own, no finger down.

The **first-position frame** — 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th fingers — is the shape the hand keeps; the fingers stay in that pattern as you cross strings.

A **low 2nd** finger leans back a semitone; a **high 3rd** stretches forward a semitone. The hand itself does not move.

One semitone is the smallest step. Two semitones make a whole tone — the gap between most neighbouring fingers.

The same finger on the next string up sounds a fifth higher, because the strings themselves are a fifth apart.

Tune with the open strings first: G–D–A–E, each a perfect fifth above the last.

Positions — where the hand sits Named by the note under the first finger

POSITION	G STRING	D STRING	A STRING	E STRING
1st	A	E	B	F $\sharp$ /G $\flat$
2nd	B	F $\sharp$ /G $\flat$	C $\sharp$ /D $\flat$	G $\sharp$ /A $\flat$
3rd	C	G	D	A
4th	D	A	E	B

A **position** is simply where the hand sits on the string. Everything else follows from the first finger.

Shift by sliding the whole hand, keeping the finger pattern intact — the notes change, the shape does not.

Third position is usually taught next after first: the third finger lands where the first was, an easy landmark.

Half position and the sharp or flat variants of each position exist too; this table shows the plain forms.

Scales that stay in first position Start here — no shifting needed

G major
G A B C D E F $\sharp$ G

D major
D E F $\sharp$ G A B C $\sharp$ D

A major
A B C $\sharp$ D E F $\sharp$ G $\sharp$ A

C major
C D E F G A B C

E minor
E F $\sharp$ G A B C D E

A minor
A B C D E F G A

D minor
D E F G A B $\flat$ C D

B $\flat$ major
B $\flat$ C D E $\flat$ F G A B $\flat$ · leans the 1st finger back