

Guide notes

Guide notes are a secure way to find the correct note or hand position at the beginning of a phrase or after a rest. The fingers are placed silently, often rapidly, in order to move to a different area of the fingerboard.

There are always many different ways to reach a particular note, and each player will have their own preferred 'route'. The examples given below are intended only to illustrate the principle.

1

Example

Violin Concerto no. 1 in G minor, op. 26, Bruch
First movement

Suppose that Bruch had written this passage as follows:

This would be straightforward to play, but it amounts to the same thing if you finger the extra A – D silently:

- (1) Play the guide notes as though they were part of the passage.
- (2) Place the finger on the first guide note without playing it (written as an x-note), and then play on.
- (3) Place both guide notes without playing them, and play the 'destination note' only.
- (4) Place the guide notes like fast grace notes, without playing them, and then begin the passage.

2

Example

Sonata in A, Franck
Second movement

- Practise as in Example 1.

3

Example

Autumn (The Four Seasons), op. 8 no. 3, Vivaldi
First movement

