
BASICS

Single-finger scales

To improve the accuracy of shifting in general, play single-finger scales and arpeggios as part of your everyday building work or warm-up routine:

The image shows five musical staves illustrating different single-finger scales and arpeggios:

- Sul A:** A scale starting on G4, moving up and then down. Fingerings are indicated as 1 1 1 1 1. Includes the text "etc." below the staff.
- Sul E:** An arpeggio starting on E4, moving up and then down. Fingerings are indicated as 2 2 2 2 2. Includes the text "etc." below the staff.
- Sul G:** An arpeggio starting on G4, moving up and then down. Fingerings are indicated as 3 3 3 3 3. Includes the text "etc." below the staff.
- Sul A:** A scale starting on A3, moving up and then down. Fingerings are indicated as 2 2 2 2 2. Includes the text "etc." below the staff.
- Sul D:** An arpeggio starting on D4, moving up and then down. Fingerings are indicated as 4 4 4 4 4. Includes the text "etc." below the staff.

Play slowly at first, using the overlapping bowing shown in the first bar. Hear the notes in your mind in advance of playing them, and listen carefully.

- 1) Stop each note with as light a finger as possible, without pressing the finger down hard into the string for each note.
- 2) Lighten the finger even more during the shift.
- 3) Keep the unused fingers close to the string, i.e. hover above the string with the fourth finger while shifting with the first finger.

The reason why practising single-finger scales and arpeggios is so helpful in shifting is because of the use of intermediate notes between the two actual notes of the shift. When a shift appears to be from one finger to another, in many cases the actual shift is really 1–1, 2–2, 3–3 or 4–4.

The image shows two musical staves illustrating different types of shifts:

- (1) Classical shift:** Shows a shift from G4 (finger 1) to F#4 (finger 3) via an intermediate note D4 (finger 1). The text "Intermediate note" is written below the staff with an arrow pointing to the D4 note.
- (2) Romantic shift:** Shows a shift from G4 (finger 1) to F#4 (finger 3) via an intermediate note B4 (finger 3).

- (1) Classical shift (known also as a Beginning shift because you shift on the finger you begin with).

The note you are shifting to, third finger F#, is in 3rd position. Shift with the first finger to 3rd position. This note, D, is the intermediate note. Having arrived there simply drop the third finger on F#. Although the sound of the shift is a perfect fifth, the actual distance of the shift is a minor 3rd, B to D played first finger to first finger.

- (2) Romantic shift (known also as an End shift because you move the hand on the finger that ends the shift).

