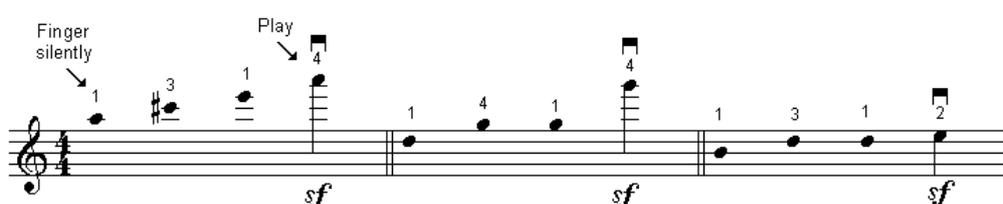

BASICS

Guide-notes

When you have to begin a phrase on a note high up the fingerboard; or you have to quickly find a high note after a rest; or even if you simply want to begin in a low position such as second or third; how can you be sure that you are going to be in tune?

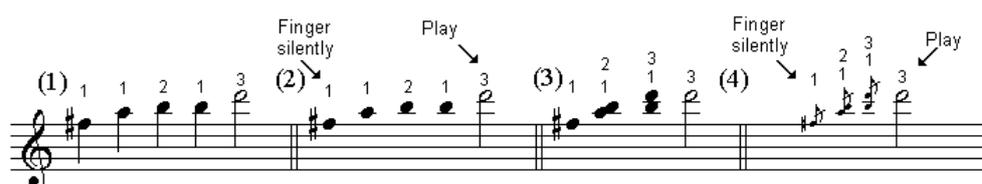
The answer is to use guide-notes – notes that you finger silently to help you move from one position to another. In the following examples, the stemless notes are quickly placed on the string without being bowed:



Practising the following exercise increases your overall knowledge of the geography of the fingerboard, and helps to make the use of guide-notes automatic and instinctive. Afterwards, your knowledge and feel of the fingerboard may be so much clearer that you can then dispense with guide-notes and simply go straight to a note without them.

The exercise includes a wide variety of different routes to each note. Although some of them may never be used in actual playing, it is still useful to practise them because they increase the ability of the fingers to feel their way around the fingerboard.

- 1 Play all the guide-notes of a group equally (see example below).
- 2 Play the 'destination note' only, getting to it by silently placing each guide-note.
- 3 Where possible, silently place the guide-notes on the string together as 'blocks' (as though playing a double-stop on one string). Sound the destination note only.
- 4 Silently place the blocks so quickly, in the space of half a second or so, that it feels as though you reach the destination note with one movement.



- Play on each string.
- Add your own paths to a note.
- Add sharps and flats to the destination note to cover more possibilities.

2nd position



BASICS

3rd position

Two staves of musical notation for the 3rd position. The first staff contains seven measures of eighth-note patterns with fingerings: 1 2 1, 1 3 1, 1 3 1 2, 1 1 2, 2 1 2, 1 1 3, 1 2 1 3. The second staff contains seven measures of eighth-note patterns with fingerings: 2 4 2 3, 2 2 3, 1 2 1 4, 1 3 1 4, 1 1 4, 2 2 4, 3 3 4.

4th position

Two staves of musical notation for the 4th position. The first staff contains seven measures of eighth-note patterns with fingerings: 1 3 1 2 1, 1 2 1 3 1, 1 4 1, 1 1 2 2, 1 1 3 2, 1 3 1 1 3, 1 1 2 1 3. The second staff contains seven measures of eighth-note patterns with fingerings: 1 1 4 3, 1 4 1 3, 2 4 2 4 3, 1 1 2 1 4, 1 1 3 4 4, 1 1 3 2 4, 1 1 3 3 4, 1 4 1 4.

5th position

Two staves of musical notation for the 5th position. The first staff contains seven measures of eighth-note patterns with fingerings: 1 2 1, 1 3 1, 1 2 1 4 1, 1 2 1 2, 1 4 2 2, 1 4 2, 1 2 1 3 2, 1 2 1 3 3. The second staff contains seven measures of eighth-note patterns with fingerings: 1 2 1 3, 1 3 1 3, 1 4 2 3, 1 2 1 4 3, 1 2 1 4, 1 3 1 4, 1 1 4, 1 4 2 4.

6th position

Two staves of musical notation for the 6th position. The first staff contains seven measures of eighth-note patterns with fingerings: 1 2 1 2 1, 1 3 1, 2 2 1, 1 4 1, 1 2 1 3 1, 1 2 1 3 1 2, 1 3 1 3 2, 1 4 1 2. The second staff contains seven measures of eighth-note patterns with fingerings: 1 2 1 3 1 3, 2 2 1 3, 1 3 1 3, 1 4 1 3, 1 3 1 4 3, 1 3 1 4, 1 4 1 4, 1 2 1 3 1 4.

7th position

Two staves of musical notation for the 7th position. The first staff contains seven measures of eighth-note patterns with fingerings: 1 2 1 2 1, 1 3 1 3 1, 1 4 1 2 1, 1 3 1 4 2, 1 4 1 3 2, 1 3 1 3 1 3, 1 4 1 3 3. The second staff contains seven measures of eighth-note patterns with fingerings: 1 4 1 2 1 4, 1 2 1 4, 1 3 1 4, 1 3 1 3 1 4, 1 3 1 2 1 4, 1 4 1 2 1 4, 1 2 1 4 1 4.

Substitutions

Since many of the guide-notes use substitutions (shifts made by replacing a new finger on the same note), practising substitutions themselves can be very helpful :

Musical notation for substitution exercises. The first staff shows a sequence of notes with a slur over the first six notes, which are marked with fingerings: 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1. The second staff shows a sequence of notes with fingerings: 3 1 3 1, 4 1 4 1, 3 2 3 2, 4 2 4 2, 4 3 4 3. The word "simile" is written below the second staff.