1 Octave Scales

K. Springer

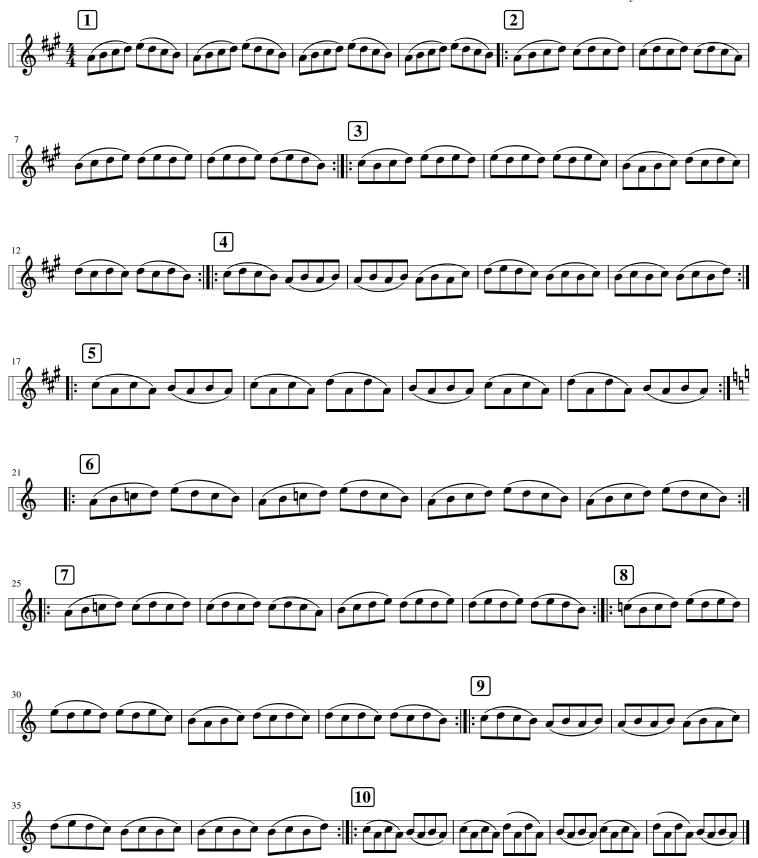


Violins

Schradieck Finger Exercises Phase 1

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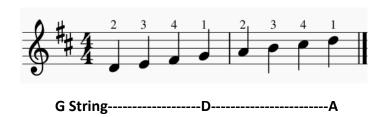


Shifting 101 for Violin & Viola

Before we can learn 2 octave scales, we need to learn how shifting works. On stringed instruments we can play notes all the way up the fingerboard, and these notes are divided into different **positions**. When we first learn a stringed instrument we learn **1**st **Position**. The D major scale starts on open D and walks its way up finger by finger in **1**st **Position**:



Easy. Now imagine that we can play that same scale, but with different fingerings:



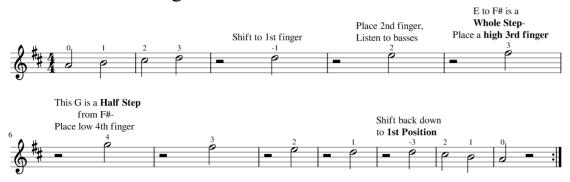
Our fingers climb the scale almost the same way (no open strings in this scale!), but we're going to have to start in a different **position**. We will have to start with our **2nd finger** on G. That is **3rd Position**, which is the next position that we learn.

So how do we get from **1**st **Position** to **3**rd **Position?** While sitting in rest position, try running your hand up and down the fingerboard. You want your entire hand to move as one unit, including your thumb. Is your thumb moving with the rest of your hand as you travel up and down the fingerboard?

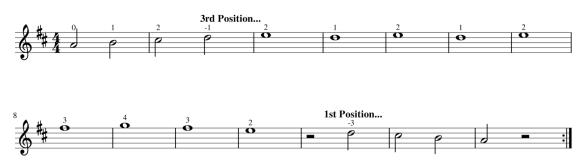
Now pretend you're about to play a D Major scale. Pluck open D, put your 1st finger down for E, 2nd finger down for F#, 3rd finger down for G-and stop there. **Replace** your 3rd finger with your 1st finger. Pluck it and see if it's right. Repeat this several times until you can **replace** the 3rd finger without thinking too much about it. By doing this, you are practicing **Shifting**. **Shifting** is the process of getting from one **Position** to another **Position**.

Time to practice Shifting so that we can add new scales and music to our repertoire!

Shifting Practice for Violins & Violas



Shifting Practice for Cellos



2 Octave G Major Scale



- *As you practice shifting and playing in the higher positions, make sure your left elbow is coming around into your body so that all four fingers stay over the fingerboard.
- *Make sure your left thumb is included while you are shifting into the next position-the thumb always travels with the hand.
- *Listen out for the beginnings of each of your notes. Are you having to adjust the pitch? Make it a mission to think of aiming for the pitch-the only way you will hit the bullseye every time is if you practice aiming for it!