

Shifting from 1st to 3rd position



Shifting refers to the hand smoothly moving up and down the fingerboard in order to play higher notes if on the E string, or to change the tone of the notes.

"**1st position**" and "**3rd position**" refers to where the first finger is placed on the fingerboard. So when your first finger is placed where first finger should be, then that is **1st position**. When your first finger is placed where third finger should be, then that is **3rd position**.

Look at the exercise above. Practice repeating the first two bars. Pay close attention to the position and sound of your third finger. This will help you accurately find third position.

Once you are confident with where your hand is travelling to, you are ready to try the second repeated section above.

To do this:-

- Make sure that your violin is secure between your chin and your shoulder so that it does not move.
- Relax your fingers for a smooth movement. *Don't forget about your thumb!* Your thumb needs to travel with the rest of your arm to maintain the correct hand shape. Move the whole arm as a single piece, leading with your elbow.
- Loosen the pressure in the moving finger. Your finger should touch the string without being in contact with the fingerboard. Think **lift, shift, drop**.
- Don't move too fast too soon. The first step is to reach the note. Once you are more comfortable with this, build up the speed.