

SHIFTING IN PASSAGES

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SHIFTING IN PASSAGES

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APART from any consideration of the bow, shifting is the chief disturbing factor in passage work on the violin, as the necessary and usually quick movement of the hand and arm is likely to disarrange the position of the fingers in relation to the strings.

The position of the hand in shifting is usually treated in a haphazard manner, the intonation of the note being the main concern. Granted the violinist possesses a "good ear," most important for good intonation and clean passage work is the accurate and systematic placing of the hand in positions that bring the notes comfortably under the fingers.

If, in the following exercises, the physical aspect of shifting be kept uppermost, using intonation merely as a proof of the correctness or otherwise of the hand position, it should become habitual for the student to sense these positions so correctly that the hand will be placed with comfort and certainty, leaving the mind free for other things.

* Before making a shift, have the objective position clearly in mind. As clearness, of thought in this matter is often taken for granted without its being present, it is suggested that in the following exercises, before the note preceding the shift is played, the oncoming note and its position be named *aloud*.

Get to know exactly where the hand should be placed for each position, and in shifting ignore the intervening distance. Think only of the position of the hand for the objective note and insist on taking up definitely the same position whether approaching from above or below. *This is the essence of this study.*

Insist on the three unused fingers being kept above and equidistant from the string in use.

Keep the shifting finger barely in contact with the string—not pressed down while shifting.

Do not grip with the thumb.

Keep the bow moving during shifts.

Do not allow the violin to move either to right or left.

Frequently practise placing the hand silently in any chosen position without preparation, testing the position by sounding a note.

Do not use vibrato.

For clear articulation: first play the passage slowly and loudly, using the whole bow. Treat each note as an individual note, with a quick and complete pressing of the string to the fingerboard and a quick release of the fingers. Make each note "click."

Give the dotted notes their full value with full tone.

As certainty increases, increase the speed, playing more softly and using less bow.

In Variation 4 of each exercise see that the 5th and 6th notes of the first group, and the 1st and 2nd notes of the second group are played evenly and firmly — especially do not wait on the first note of the 2nd group.

* Read this frequently.

First Finger Shifts

Lento

Play the above also from memory, naming the notes and positions.

VARIATION I

During the rests, quickly place the hand back in the original position, retaining in mind however, the exact position of the hand for the objective note, so that the ensuing quick shift may be done confidently.

VARIATION II: The shift at the end of a passage

VARIATION III: The shift at the beginning of a passage

★ Watch the A♭ & D♯ in this bar.

VARIATION IV: The shift in the middle of a passage

Second Finger

Continue this figure to
the VIII Position, then return.

Third Finger

Continue this figure to
the VIII Position, then return.

Fourth Finger

Sheet music for the Fourth Finger technique in G major (three sharps). The music consists of six staves of fingerings:

- Staff 1: Fingerings II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, VII, VI, V, IV, III, II, I.
- Staff 2: Var. 1 (measures 1-2), Var. 2 (measures 3-4).
- Staff 3: Var. 3 (measures 5-6).
- Staff 4: Var. 4 (measures 7-8).

Fingerings are indicated above the notes, and measure numbers are below them.

First and Second Fingers

Sheet music for the First and Second Fingers technique in E-flat major (one flat). The music consists of six staves of fingerings:

- Staff 1: Fingerings II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VI, V, IV, III, II, I.
- Staff 2: Var. 1 (measures 1-2), Var. 2 (measures 3-4).
- Staff 3: Var. 3 (measures 5-6).
- Staff 4: Var. 4 (measures 7-8).
- Staff 5: Var. 5 (measures 9-10).

Fingerings are indicated above the notes, and measure numbers are below them.

First and Third Fingers

II III IV V VI VII VI V IV III II I

Var. 1

II I II

VI VII VI VII VI V VI V

Var. 2

II

VI VII VI V

Var. 3

II

VI VII VI V

Var. 4

II

VI VII VI V

First and Fourth Fingers

A musical staff in G major, common time. It shows a sequence of eighth notes and sixteenth note pairs. Fingerings above the notes indicate the use of the first and fourth fingers. The sequence starts with a pair of eighth notes (1, 2), followed by a sixteenth note (3) and an eighth note (1), then a sixteenth note (4) and an eighth note (1). Subsequent groups follow a similar pattern of alternating eighth and sixteenth notes, with fingerings II, III, IV, V, VII, V, VI, V, IV, III, II, and I.

Var. 1

A musical staff in G major, common time. It consists of two measures of eighth-note pairs. Fingerings below the notes indicate the use of the first and fourth fingers. The first measure shows pairs (1, 2), (3, 1), (3, 1), (4, 1). The second measure shows pairs (1, 2), (3, 1), (4, 1), (4, 1).

A continuation of the musical exercise from Variation 1. It consists of two measures of eighth-note pairs. Fingerings below the notes indicate the use of the first and fourth fingers. The first measure shows pairs (4, 1), (1, 4), (4, 1). The second measure shows pairs (1, 4), (4, 1), (1, 4), (4, 1).

Var. 2

A musical staff in G major, common time. It consists of four measures of eighth-note pairs. Fingerings below the notes indicate the use of the first and fourth fingers. The first measure shows pairs (1, 2), (1, 2). The second measure shows pairs (3, 1), (3, 1). The third measure shows pairs (1, 4), (1, 4). The fourth measure shows pairs (4, 1), (4, 1).

A continuation of the musical exercise from Variation 2. It consists of four measures of eighth-note pairs. Fingerings below the notes indicate the use of the first and fourth fingers. The first measure shows pairs (4, 1), (1, 4). The second measure shows pairs (4, 1), (1, 4). The third measure shows pairs (4, 1), (1, 4). The fourth measure shows pairs (4, 1), (1, 4).

Var. 3

A musical staff in G major, common time. It consists of four measures of eighth-note pairs. Fingerings below the notes indicate the use of the first and fourth fingers. The first measure shows pairs (1, 2), (1, 3). The second measure shows pairs (1, 3), (1, 4). The third measure shows pairs (1, 4), (1, 4). The fourth measure shows pairs (1, 4), (1, 4).

A continuation of the musical exercise from Variation 3. It consists of four measures of eighth-note pairs. Fingerings below the notes indicate the use of the first and fourth fingers. The first measure shows pairs (4, 1), (4, 1). The second measure shows pairs (4, 1), (4, 1). The third measure shows pairs (4, 1), (4, 1). The fourth measure shows pairs (4, 1), (4, 1).

Var. 4

A musical staff in G major, common time. It consists of four measures of eighth-note pairs. Fingerings below the notes indicate the use of the first and fourth fingers. The first measure shows pairs (1, 2), (1, 2). The second measure shows pairs (1, 3), (1, 4). The third measure shows pairs (1, 4), (1, 4). The fourth measure shows pairs (1, 4), (1, 4).

A continuation of the musical exercise from Variation 4. It consists of three measures of eighth-note pairs. Fingerings below the notes indicate the use of the first and fourth fingers. The first measure shows pairs (1, 4), (1, 4). The second measure shows pairs (1, 4), (1, 4). The third measure shows pairs (4, 1), (1, 4).

A continuation of the musical exercise from Variation 4. It consists of three measures of eighth-note pairs. Fingerings below the notes indicate the use of the first and fourth fingers. The first measure shows pairs (4, 1), (1, 4). The second measure shows pairs (4, 1), (1, 4). The third measure shows pairs (4, 1), (1, 4).

Second and First Fingers

The first section of the exercise consists of a single staff of sixteenth-note patterns. The notes are grouped by vertical bar lines, with fingerings indicating the sequence of strokes. The notes are labeled with Roman numerals: III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, VII, VI, V, IV, III, II, I. Below this, there are five variations (Var. 1 through Var. 5) each consisting of two staves. The first variation is in 4/4 time, the second in 6/8 time, the third in 9/8 time, the fourth in 9/8 time, and the fifth in 6/8 time.

Second and Third Fingers

The second section of the exercise consists of a single staff of sixteenth-note patterns. The notes are grouped by vertical bar lines, with fingerings indicating the sequence of strokes. The notes are labeled with Roman numerals: II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VI, V, IV, III, II, I. Below this, there are five variations (Var. 1 through Var. 5) each consisting of two staves. The first variation is in 4/4 time, the second in 6/8 time, the third in 9/8 time, the fourth in 9/8 time, and the fifth in 6/8 time.

Second and Fourth Fingers



Var. 1

Var. 2

Var. 3

Var. 4

Third and First Fingers

The first section of the exercise consists of a single staff in G major (two sharps) and common time. It features a continuous sequence of eighth-note chords: IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, VII, VI, V, IV, III, II, I. Fingerings are indicated below the notes: 3 1, 3 1, 3 1, 1 3 1 3, 1 3, 1 3, 1 3, 1 3, 1 3, 1 3, 1 3, 1 3.

Below this are four variations:

- Var. 1:** In 4/4 time, featuring chords IV, I, IV, X, VII, X, VII. Fingerings: 3 1, 3 1, 1 3 1 3.
- Var. 2:** In 6/8 time, featuring chords IV, X, VII. Fingerings: 3 1, 1 1 3.
- Var. 3:** In 9/8 time, featuring chords IV, X, VII. Fingerings: 3 1.
- Var. 4:** In 9/8 time, featuring chords IV, X, VII. Fingerings: 3 1.

Third and Second Fingers

The second section of the exercise consists of a single staff in G major (two sharps) and common time. It features a continuous sequence of eighth-note chords: III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, VII, VI, V, IV, III, II, I. Fingerings are indicated below the notes: 3 2, 3 2, 3 2, 2 3 2 3, 2 3, 2 3, 2 3, 2 3, 2 3, 2 3, 2 3.

Below this are four variations:

- Var. 1:** In 4/4 time, featuring chords III, I, III, IX, VII, IX, VII. Fingerings: 3 2, 3 2, 2 3 2 3, 2 3.
- Var. 2:** In 6/8 time, featuring chords III, IX, VII. Fingerings: 3 2, 2 2 3.
- Var. 3:** In 9/8 time, featuring chords III, IX, VII. Fingerings: 3 2.
- Var. 4:** In 9/8 time, featuring chords III, IX, VII. Fingerings: 3 2.

Third and Fourth Fingers

The first staff shows a continuous sequence of eighth notes from II to I. Subsequent staves (Var. 1 through Var. 4) show variations of this pattern, often starting with a different note and including measure numbers (II, I, II, VII, VI, VII, VI) above the notes. The last two staves show a repeating pattern of eighth notes, with the first ending on VII and the second ending on VI.

Fourth and First Fingers

The first staff shows a sequence of eighth notes from V to I. Subsequent staves (Var. 1 through Var. 4) show variations of this pattern, often starting with a different note and including measure numbers (V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI, VII, VI, V, IV, III, II, I) above the notes. The last two staves show a repeating pattern of eighth notes, with the first ending on VII and the second ending on VI.

Fourth and Second Fingers

The sheet music consists of five staves of violin notation. The first staff is a continuous line of eighth notes across ten positions (IV-X) with fingerings 4-2, 5, 6, VII, VIII, IX, X, VII, VI, V, IV, III, II, I. The second staff is labeled 'Var. 1' and shows two measures in 4/4 time with fingerings 4-2, 4, 2, 2, 4, 2, 4. The third staff is labeled 'Var. 2' and shows two measures in 6/8 time with fingerings 4, 2, 2, 4. The fourth staff is labeled 'Var. 3' and shows two measures in 6/8 time with fingerings 4, 2, 2, 4. The fifth staff is labeled 'Var. 4' and shows two measures in 6/8 time with fingerings 4, 2, 2, 4.

Fourth and Third Fingers

The sheet music consists of five staves of violin notation. The first staff is a continuous line of eighth notes across ten positions (III-X) with fingerings 4-3, 5, 6, VII, VIII, IX, VII, VI, V, IV, III, II, I. The second staff is labeled 'Var. 1' and shows two measures in 4/4 time with fingerings 4-3, 4, 3, 3, 4, 3, 4. The third staff is labeled 'Var. 2' and shows two measures in 9/8 time with fingerings 4, 3, 3, 4. The fourth staff is labeled 'Var. 3' and shows two measures in 6/8 time with fingerings 4, 3, 3, 4. The fifth staff is labeled 'Var. 4' and shows two measures in 6/8 time with fingerings 4, 3, 3, 4.

These exercises have been placed purposely on the D String to shape the hand and arm to the more awkward part of the instrument, but they should be worked out on the other three especially on the E String, as much of the passage work in the higher positions is written for this string.

Shifting Exercises in Thirds

★ Place the fingers on both notes, but sound only the black notes.

Lento II III IV V VI VII VIII

VII VI V IV III II I

Var. 1 II I II VIII VII VII

Var. 2 II VIII VII

Var. 3 II

Var. 4 II VIII VII

II III IV V VI VII

VI V IV III II I

Var. 1 II I II VII VI VI

Var. 2 II VII VI

Var. 3 II VII VI

Var. 4 II VII

VII

VI

II III IV V VI VII VIII

VII VI V IV III II I

Var. 1

II I II VIII VII VIII VII

Var. 2.

II VIII VII

Var. 3

II

Var. 4

II VIII VII

III IV V VI VII VIII IX

VII VI V IV III II I

Var. 1

III I III IX VII IX VII

Var. 2.

III IX VII

Var. 3

III

Var. 4

II III IX VII

Sixths

Both fingers to be placed simultaneously.

The score consists of two main sections. The first section contains two sets of eight-note patterns on a single staff. The first set uses fingers II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, and VIII. The second set uses fingers I, II, III, IV, V, VI, and VII. Both sets have fingerings below the notes: e.g., II has 1 2 2 1, III has 1 2 2 1, IV has 1 2 2 1, V has 1 2 2 1, VI has 1 2 2 1, VII has 1 2 2 1, and VIII has 1 2 2 1. The second section contains four variations of sixteenth-note patterns (Var. 1, Var. 2, Var. 3, Var. 4) and four variations of eighth-note patterns (Var. 1, Var. 2, Var. 3, Var. 4). The sixteenth-note variations are in 4/4 time and the eighth-note variations are in 6/8 time. All patterns include fingerings and dynamic markings like accents and slurs.

The Little Shepherd Girl

Bach

Two voices and basso continuo

Section I: Measures 1-10

Section II: Measures 11-20

Section III: Measures 21-30

Section IV: Measures 31-40

Section V: Measures 41-50

Section VI: Measures 51-60

Section VII: Measures 61-70

Variation 1: Measures 1-10

Variation 2: Measures 11-20

Variation 3: Measures 21-30

Variation 4: Measures 31-40

Variation 5: Measures 41-50

Variation 6: Measures 51-60

Variation 7: Measures 61-70

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II III IV V VI VII VIII
VII VI V IV III II I
Var. 1 Var. 2 Var. 3 Var. 4
II VIII VII
VIII VII VII
II
II
II
II
II III IV V VI VII
VI V IV III II I
Var. 1 Var. 2 Var. 3 Var. 4
II VII VI VI
VI
II VII VI
II VII VI
II
II
II
II
VI

III IV V VI VII VIII IX

VII VI V IV III II I

Var. 1 III I IX VII IX VII

Var. 2 III IX VII

Var. 3 III IX VII

Var. 4 III IX VII

II III IV V VI VII VIII

VII VI V IV III II I

Var. 1 II I VII VIII VII

Var. 2 VII VIII

Var. 3 II VIII VII

Var. 4 II VII VIII

III IV V VI VII VIII IX

VII VI V IV III II I

Var. 1: III I III IX VII IX VII
Var. 2: III IX VII

Var. 3: III
Var. 4: III IX VII

IV V VI VII VIII IX X

VII VI V IV III II I

Var. 1: IV I IV X VII X VII
Var. 2: IV X VII

Var. 3: IV
Var. 4: IV X VII

Fourths

II III IV V VI VII VIII VII VI V IV III II I

Var. 1 II I II VIII VII VIII VII

Var. 2 II VIII VII

Var. 3 II VIII VII

Var. 4 II VIII VII

II III IV V VI VII VI V IV III II I

Var. 1 II I II VII VI VI VII VI

Var. 2 II VII VI VI

Var. 3 II VII VI VI

Var. 4 II VII VI VI

VII

21

II III IV V VI VII VIII VII VI V IV III II I

Var. 1 II I II VIII VII VIII VII

Var. 2 VIII VII

Var. 3 VIII VII

Var. 4 VIII VII

III IV V VI VII VIII IX VII VII VI V IV III II I

Var. 1 III I III IX VII VII

Var. 2 IX VII

Var. 3 IX VII

Var. 4 IX VII

IV V VI VII VIII IX X VII VI V IV III II I

Var. 1 IV I IV X VII X VII

Var. 2 X VII

Var. 3 IV X VII

Var. 4 IV X VII

Shifts in Octaves

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For most violinists the playing of "fingered octaves" entails a stretching back of the first and second fingers. Therefore the positions in the following exercises are determined by the upper note, and are marked accordingly.

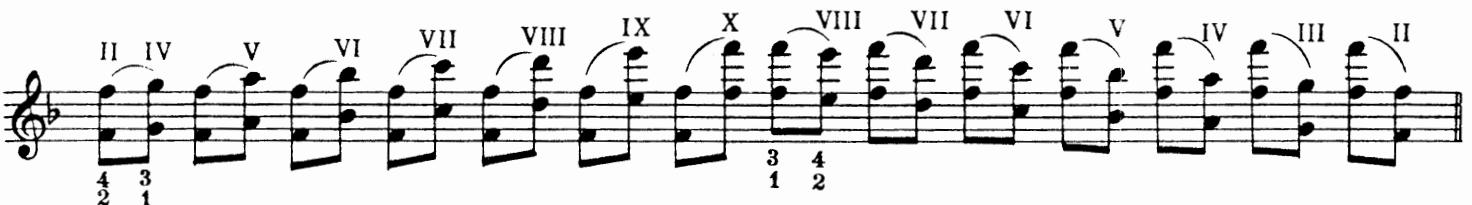


Var. 1

Var. 2

Var. 3

Var. 4



Var. 1

Var. 2

Var. 3

Var. 4