

St Peter's Eaton Square Year 4a

L.O- How to play with the Fourth Finger

Each string has a **different quality of sound**. You can play one note in a few different places on the violin. For instance, an open E can be played on the E string, 4th finger on A and up high on the D string and somewhere really high on the G string. They make very different sorts of sounds, but it is the same note.

You can use your fourth finger to make a more consistent sound. When you go over to the next string. If you're playing a piece all on the D string you might want to **keep a more consistent sound** and keep on the D string rather than playing a random open A that might stick out and sound more shrill than the rest of the notes and disrupt the flow.

If you're playing a really fast piece it can also help to use the fourth finger to **avoid any tricky string crossings**.

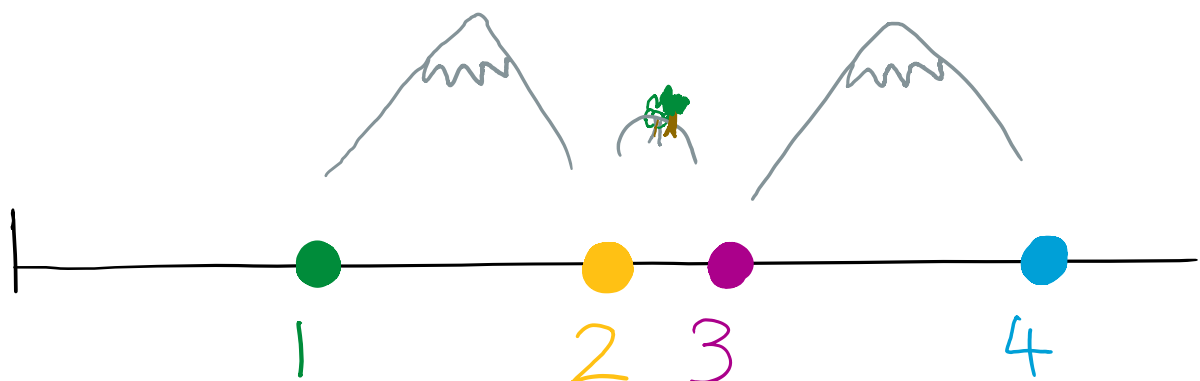
Here is the spacing on the string for the 4th finger



This shows that it is a **Tone**,
these are **big gap**.



This shows that it is a **Semi-tone**
these are **small gaps**



Important handy hints



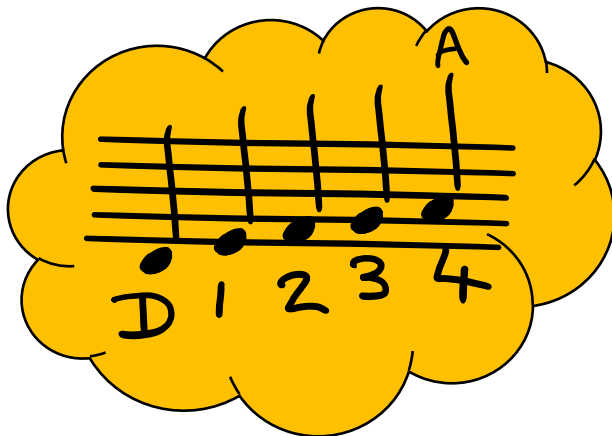
- 1) Always make sure your hand position is correct otherwise you may not be able to reach.
- 2) The fourth finger is much less used in every day life so is a little bit weaker at the beginning. Keep your fourth finger bent with the tip on the string.
- 3) Be ware not to squeeze with your thumb when reaching for the fourth finger.
- 4) If your finger simply wont reach, try working from the fourth finger down so you're reaching back for the other fingers so you can keep the curve of your fourth finger.

Congratulations you have learnt
all your fingers on the D string!

Look at the 4th finger note written down below. Do you recognise it?

It's the same as open A.

Label the notes below with either a 4 or an A.



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Now try and make up your own tune with these notes. You can use open A if you find the 4th finger tricky don't worry. Your pinky will get stronger slowly.