

Violin Fingering Reference Chart for Composers

String: **IV** **III** **II** **I**

Maximum general stretch = 5th on one string. 4th on one string more common.

Maximum interval stretch increases higher up the fingerboard as distance between semitone reduces.

Chords

The more comfortable the chord, the easier and quicker it is to prepare = the more likely it will be in tune and sound good.

Any note with adjoining open string = good.

Open string will dominate if stopped note high up string.

Between adjacent strings:

6ths, 3rds, 8ves, 7ths all easy and likely to be in tune in progressions

2nd slightly uncomfortable in some situations but very playable

4ths, 5ths more difficult to get in tune (in general)

10ths possible by good players

Single finger can play across 2 adjacent strings, not three or four

Artificial harmonics

Most common = interval of P4 on same string: will sound 15ma above lower note.

Sounds best when lower note is up to 6th above open string).

	IV	III	II	I	
					← Open string
					← Natural harmonic: will sound 15ma + M3 above this note
					← Natural harmonic: will sound 15ma above this note
					← Natural harmonic: will sound 15ma above string name
					← Natural harmonic: will sound 8ve above this note
					← Natural harmonic: will sound 8ve + P5 above this note
					← Natural harmonic: will sound at this pitch

Natural harmonic: will sound at this pitch

