

Double bass A string - first position

Simandl 1-2-4. Sounding pitches; written bass notes are one octave higher.

Schematic semitone spacing, not physical measurements. Other accidentals are not shown.

A string		Pitch	Finger	Semitones
0	A1	A1		open 0
		B1	1	2
		C2	2	3
		C#2	4	4
1	B1			
2	C2			
4	C#2			

Try this string slowly

This is Simandl first position, using fingers one, two and four. First finger is two semitones above the open string; second and fourth each add one semitone. Half position and thumb position are not included.

Do not replace finger four with finger three on this reference. The lower-position 1-2-4 frame covers a whole step between first and fourth fingers. Return to open A1 between repetitions to hear a stable reference.

Play the open A string (A1) for four slow beats. Let the sound settle, then name the next pitch before moving.

Play A1 - B1 - C2 - C#2 and reverse the order, using one relaxed bow per note. Begin at a pace that lets you hear each change.

Repeat just B1 to C2. This gap is one semitone (a half step). Compare the spacing with the note table rather than spreading every finger equally.