

Cello D string - first position

Selected first-position pattern. Sounding pitches. 0 = open string.

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

D string		Pitch	Finger	Semitones
0	D3	D3		open 0
		E3	1	2
		F3	2	3
1	E3	F#3	3	4
2	F3	G3	4	5
3	F#3			
4	G3			

Try this string slowly

This is normal, unextended first position. First finger is two semitones above the open string, then fingers two, three and four each add one semitone. Extensions and shifts are not included.

The top note here, G3, uses fourth finger. The sequence from first to fourth finger spans three semitones; avoid copying a violin hand pattern onto this longer string.

Play the open D string (D3) for four slow beats. Let the sound settle, then name the next pitch before moving.

Play D3 - E3 - F3 - F#3 - G3 and reverse the order, using one relaxed bow per note. Begin at a pace that lets you hear each change.

Repeat just E3 to F3. This gap is one semitone (a half step). Compare the spacing with the note table rather than spreading every finger equally.