

Viola A string - first position

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

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

A string		Pitch	Finger	Semitones
0	A4	A4		open 0
		B4	1	2
1	B4	C#5	2	4
		D5	3	5
2	C#5	E5	4	7
3	D5			
4	E5			

Try this string slowly

The viola chart uses one selected first-position pattern. Alto-clef reading and finger placement are separate tasks: say the pitch first, then find its string and finger. Accidentals can change the pattern without changing position.

This is the instrument's highest open string. The fourth-finger E5 has no higher neighbouring open string to compare against; use a reference tone or tuner and listen before adjusting.

Play the open A string (A4) for four slow beats. Let the sound settle, then name the next pitch before moving.

Play A4 - B4 - C#5 - D5 - E5 and reverse the order, using one relaxed bow per note. Begin at a pace that lets you hear each change.

Repeat just B4 to C#5. This gap is two semitones (a whole step). Compare the spacing with the note table rather than spreading every finger equally.