

Viola C string - first position

Selected first-position pattern. Sounding pitches. 0 = open string.
Schematic semitone spacing, not physical measurements. Other accidentals are not shown.

C string

0

C3

1

D3

2

E3

3

F3

4

G3

Pitch	Finger	Semitones
C3		open0
D3	1	2
E3	2	4
F3	3	5
G3	4	7

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.

The fourth-finger G3 on this string matches the open G string. Alternate the two slowly as an ear check; their tone colour differs even when the pitches agree.

Play the open C string (C3) for four slow beats. Let the sound settle, then name the next pitch before moving.

Play C3 - D3 - E3 - F3 - G3 and reverse the order, using one relaxed bow per note. Begin at a pace that lets you hear each change.

Repeat just D3 to E3. This gap is two semitones (a whole step). Compare the spacing with the note table rather than spreading every finger equally.