

Viola 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

0

D4

1

E4

2

F#4

3

G4

4

A4

Pitch	Finger	Semitones
D4		open0
E4	1	2
F#4	2	4
G4	3	5
A4	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 A4 on this string matches the open A string. Alternate the two slowly as an ear check; their tone colour differs even when the pitches agree.

Play the open D string (D4) for four slow beats. Let the sound settle, then name the next pitch before moving.

Play D4 - E4 - F#4 - G4 - A4 and reverse the order, using one relaxed bow per note. Begin at a pace that lets you hear each change.

Repeat just E4 to F#4. This gap is two semitones (a whole step). Compare the spacing with the note table rather than spreading every finger equally.