

Introducing Scales & Arpeggios with Shifting Practice

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What Level students?

- Students learning 3-octave scales for the first time
- Students who already know some or all 3-octave scales, but need further technique development in shifting
- Advanced students/performers who need/want technique review.

Why Scales?

- Working on Intonation
- Working on Shifting Technique
- Automatic Finger patterns
- Something to play while focusing on other things
- Developing the ability to play fast
- Provides an opportunity to learn some theory

When to start 3-octave scales?

- Two-octave scales
- Playing at Suzuki Book/ASTACAP 4/5 Level
- Some systematic learning of positions and Shifting (and READING in positions) is in process

ABOVE THE FIRST POSITION

A Comprehensive and
Melodic Approach to the
THIRD, SECOND, FOURTH, and
FIFTH POSITIONS

for the violin

by
MARKWOOD HOLMES
and
RUSSELL WEBBER

for class or private study

CARL FISCHER.



BRIDGE • A TUNE A DAY - YOUR BOOK 3 • PART 2 • VIOLA •

A TUNE A DAY C. PAUL HERFURTH

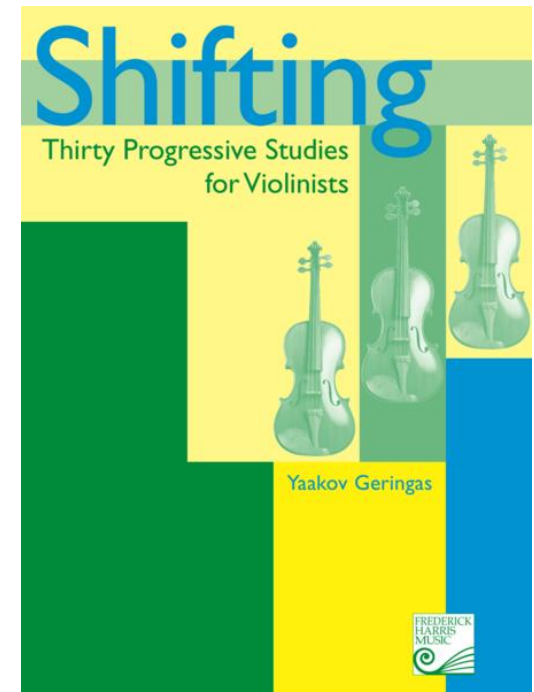
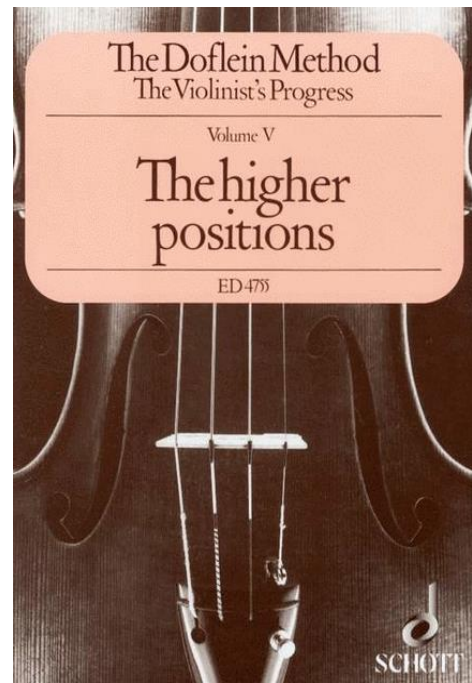
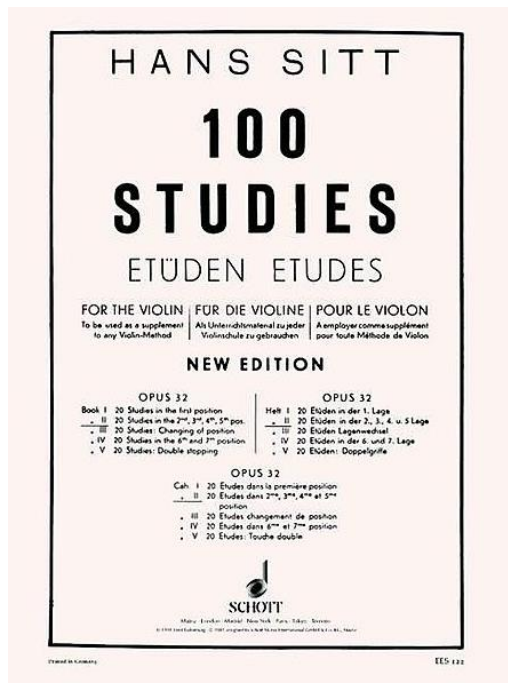
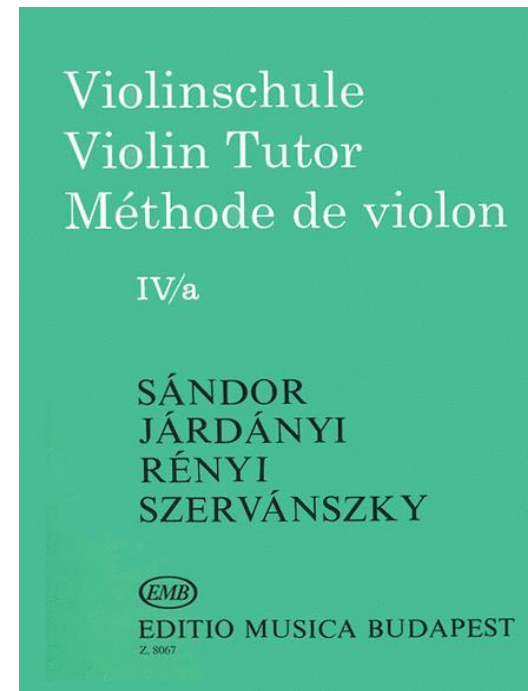
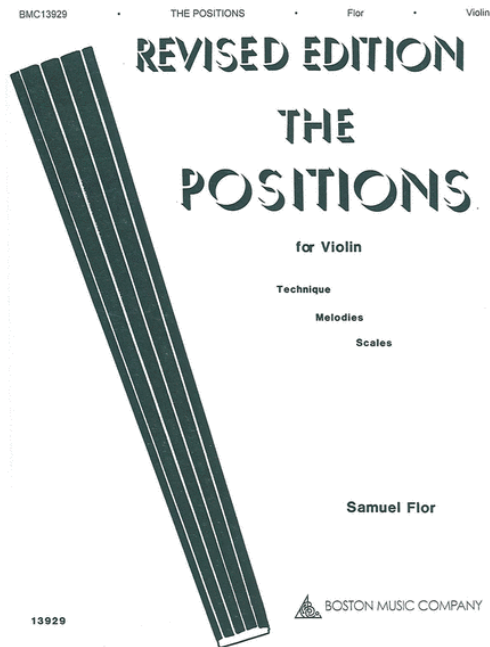
Viola

A THIRD BOOK FOR INSTRUCTION IN GROUP,
PUBLIC SCHOOL CLASSES OR INDIVIDUAL LESSONS.
Requires mastery of elementary playing when used with the other String Books.



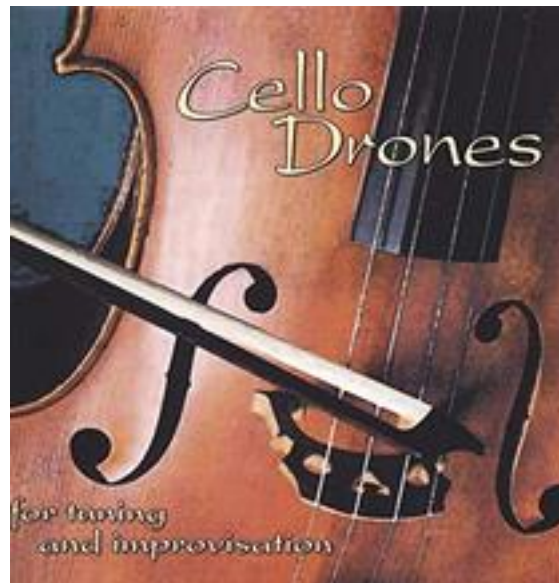
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Challenges: Modulating Scales

- Play along
- Play along an 8ve below
- Hear pitches in your head before you play
- Drones



Reducing Tension in Shifting

- Check instrument set-up
- Soft Thumb
- Gentle fingertip
- Shift on outside fur of the string
- Demonstrate relaxed shift on student's arm
- Shift slowly

Shape of Hand in Shifting

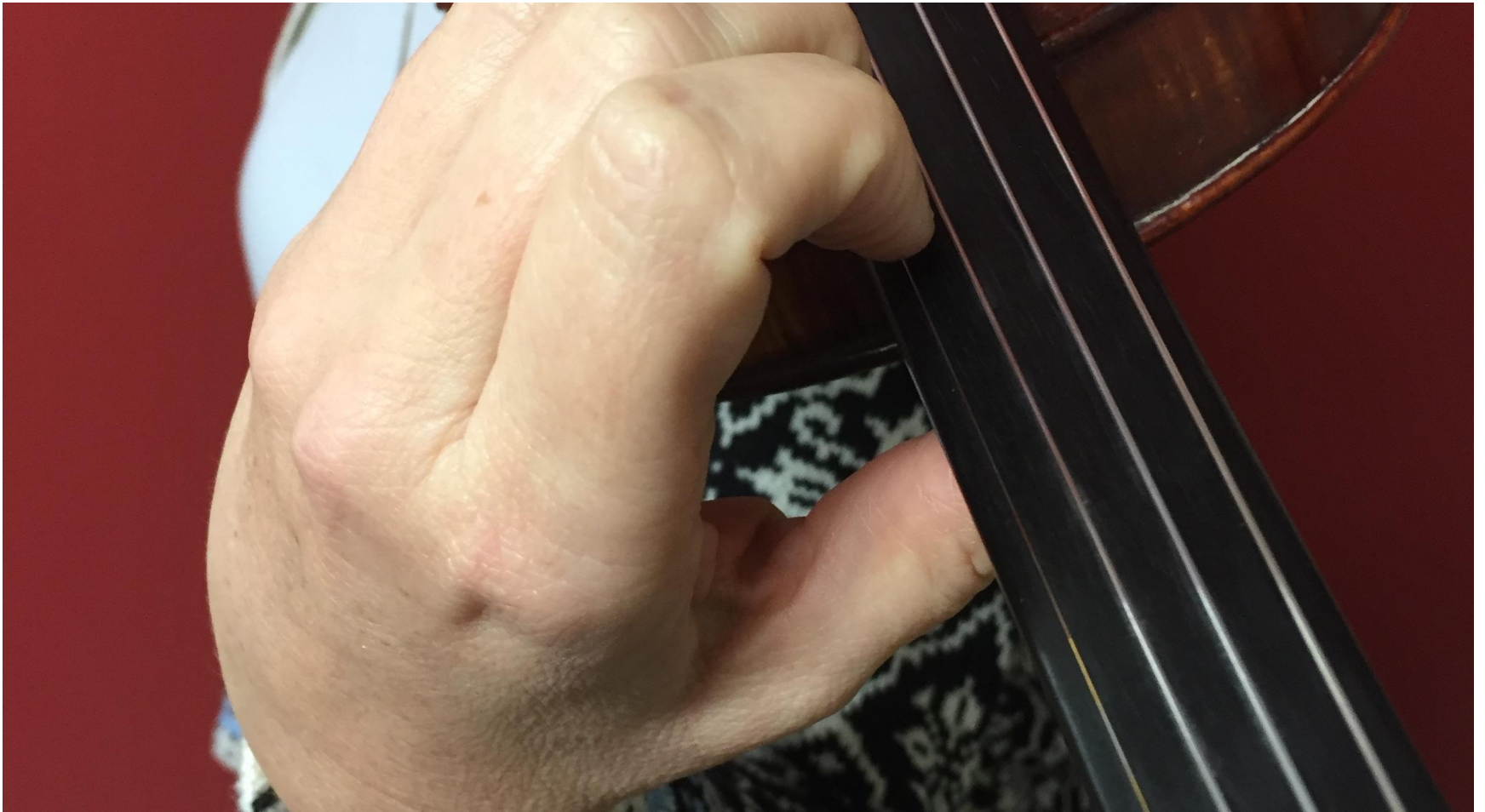
- Thumb moves with hand in the shift
- Shift comes from elbow (not wrist)
- Wrist stays still (don't initiate shift from wrist)



Thumb moves under neck



Base of first finger not in contact with
neck



Where does the thumb go in high positions?



Hand Shape Changes

- Going up
 - thumb under
 - Hand swings around (fingernails look at wall), hand makes backwards letter C, can look through the hole and see the pegs, hand gets all the way into new position (4th finger is over its spot)
 - Prepare to go over instrument (lift up) BEFORE high shifts
- Going down
 - Thumb back to side of neck
 - Back to contact with base of first finger (fingernails look at face)

Other challenges for students learning scales

- Hopping/Not using guide fingers in shifts
- Challenges with dividing scales into groups of 3 or 4 (or 6 or 8, etc.) notes for bowing and rhythm patterns
- Memorizing fingerings

Practicing Shifts

shifting practice for the top fingerings



Rough Scale-teaching Plan

- 2-octave scales
- G Major 3-octave
- All Major 3-octave scales
- Learn key signatures!
- Minor scales
- Minor key signatures
- Arpeggios
- Scales in double stops

Scales for working on other things

- Elbow hinge
- Bowhold/bow arm – adjustments over whole bow
- Rhythms
- Bowings
- Acceleration Exercise
- Crescendos/Diminuendos