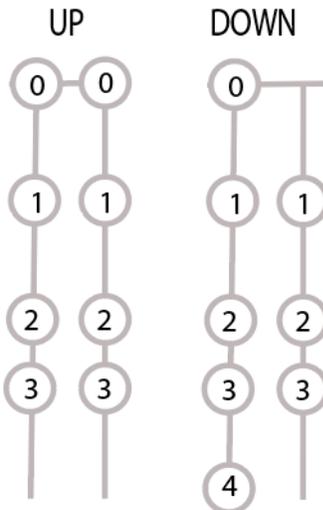


# Major scale finger patterns (1 octave)

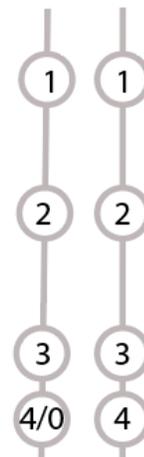
## 1. Starting on open string



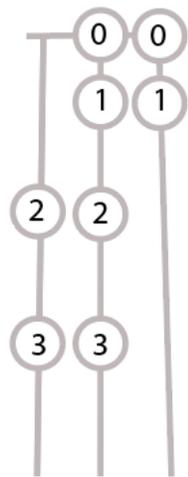
One-octave scales you can play on violin that start on open string are Sol, Re, and La major scales. When we go up, we play both open strings, when we go down, we play 4th finger once. The pictures represent the fingerboard with 2 strings, so when you play scale down, read it from right to left (UP:01230123, DOWN:32143210)

## 2. Starting on the first finger

Next pattern is when we start on the 1st finger. You can play La<sub>b</sub> and La on G,<sup>1</sup> Mi<sub>b</sub> and Mi on D, Si<sub>b</sub> and Si on A. If you move to higher position, you can play any 1 octave scale if you can start it with the first finger. Also, when



later you will play Re-major 2-octave scale, with the shift to the III position on string A to Re with the 1st finger, you can play the second octave. Notice that there is a possibility to play open string once on a way up if you play La, Mi or Si major scales. It looks similar to the scale that starts on the open string, because all major scales are the same - they consist the same intervals: whole tones(major seconds) and half tones(minor seconds; 1-1-1/2-1-1-1-1/2).

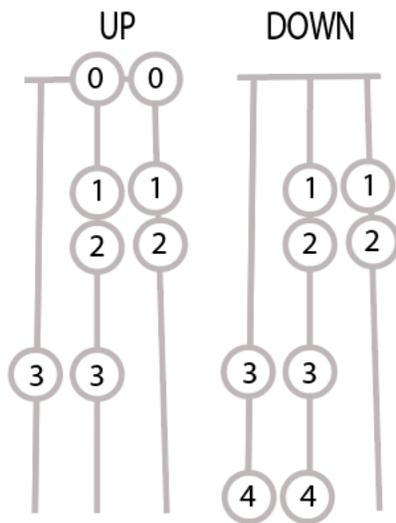


## 3. Starting on the second finger

When starting on the 2nd finger, we will play Si<sub>b</sub> on G, Fa on D, and Do on A. You can use the 4th finger when you go down, but you will feel that it is slightly more uncomfortable, as you will need to place 1st finger low, so all fingers are a whole tone apart. It is OK to play open strings both ways, up and down, in this one for now. The scales Si on G, Fa<sub>#</sub> on D, and Do<sub>#</sub> on A require the use of high 4th finger, and again all fingers would be separated by a whole tone. You can try those, but in many cases it would make more sense to shift to another position and start on the 1st finger, if you have a such scale-like passage in your music.

<sup>1</sup>I will use G, D, A, and E for names of the strings, Do Re Mi Fa Sol La Si for the names of the notes, and roman numerals for positions (I, II, III, IV etc.)

## 4. Starting on the 3rd finger



The last ones for now are the scales that start on the 3rd finger. Those are Do on G, Sol on D, and Re on A.

If you want to play a  $Do_{\sharp}$  scale starting on G starting on 3rd finger, you can do it: the finger pattern will be the same as playing these scale down, using the 4th finger all the time.

Another option - you can start it with the 4th finger, it will be almost like in the picture on the left, but the finger numbers will be +1. The good thing it will be the same both ways. (UP: 41234123, DOWN:32143214)

Experiment what other finger patterns there are on a violin, if you use all 4 fingers in the same position, but also remember to know what notes are they and how you would write them, when playing scales from a book, look into music, but think what are the finger patterns you have on each string.

### Important things to remember when practicing scales:

1. Bring your fingers closer above the fingerboard before you start a scale.
2. Every new scale you need to learn slowly at first, and even after you learn it, it is still very beneficial to play it very slow once in a while. You need time to relax on every note, feel how much pressure you are applying to the string (it might be too much), think what is the next note, prepare it. If you focus well, you can really control how your fingers move in a most effective and relaxed way, and it will help later when you will need to play fast.
3. When playing up - keep your fingers on the fingerboard until you need to change the string (if you need to use your 4th finger on a way up, take off 1st and 2nd finger while you play 3rd finger, place 1st on the next string, while you still playing 4th finger).
4. On a way down, every next finger should be on the string before you lift the one you are playing. After open string, try to place 2nd and 3rd fingers in the same time, while you are still playing open string. If you play 1st finger before changing the string, place 3rd and 4th. To make it more natural for the fingers, bring your elbow forward slightly.

# Melodic minor 1 octave scales finger patterns

## 1. Starting on open string

When we play minor scales, we often play “melodic” minor - on a way up we play the first four notes of the scale, or as we could call it a first “tetrachord”, as a regular minor (1-1/2-1), and the second tetrachord we play as in major (1-1-1/2).

Major: 1-1-1/2-1-1-1-1/2.

Regular minor: 1-1/2-1-1-1/2-1-1

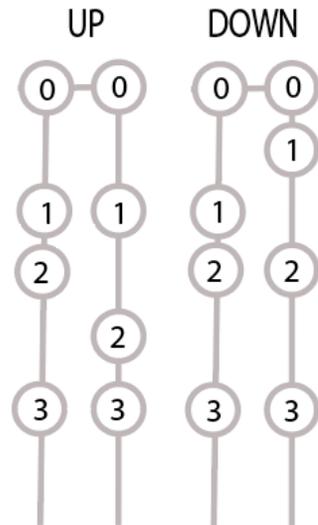
Melodic minor: 1-1/2-1-1-1-1-1/2

So what one octave minor scales we can play on violin that start on open string and use only one position? Same - Sol, Re, La.

On a way down we play regular minor, as in the right picture

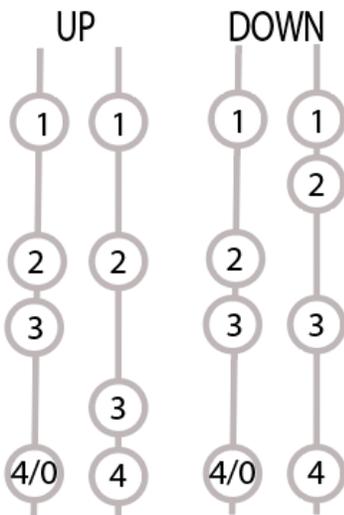
(remember you read it from the right, where the higher string is).

It is a little more complicated as the finger patterns are changing, and that is why it is important for us to think about scales like finger patterns as well as notes, so you can prepare your fingers in advance.



## 2. Starting on the first finger

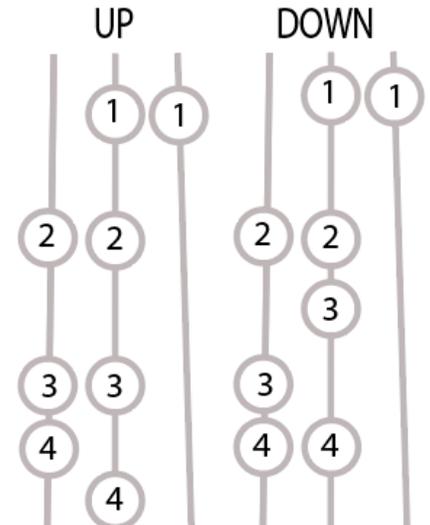
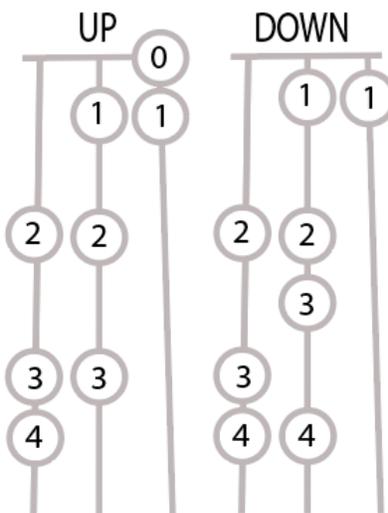
Same as major scales, you can play starting on La<sub>b</sub>, and La on G, Mi<sub>b</sub>, and Mi on D, Si<sub>b</sub>, and Si on A. And the situation is the same with the use of the 4th finger.



## 3. Starting on the second finger

With open string

Without open string

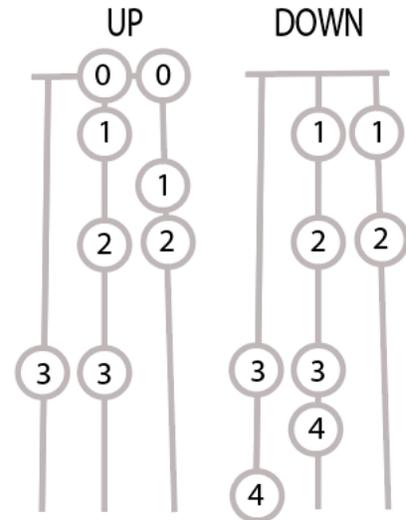


When you start on the second finger, there will be 2 options - with or without the possibility of the open string. With open string in I position you can play these scales:

Si<sub>b</sub> on G, Fa on D, and Do on A string.

## 4. Starting on the 3rd finger

Here is the pattern for scales that start on the 3rd finger in I position with use of the open string, and they start from the same notes as the major scales: Do on G, Sol on D, and Re on A.



## Just a little more:

Major and minor are not the only scales we use in music.

There are also modes, and you can read more about it and listen to them [here](#). There are also Blues scale types, and some other scales made up by composers and musicians throughout the history of music. For violinists, practicing scales is not only the way to improve left hand technique, but can also be a brain exercise. Also, it is very helpful in practicing right hand technique as well, as you can work on different strokes and techniques without focusing too much on your left hand (assuming you worked enough on your scales).

## The next level:

When you learn how to shift, you will move to the next level of playing scales. The first one will be to start some scale on string G, and the top note of that scale becomes the first one of the second octave of that same scale, but you will need to figure out what fingers and finger patterns you are going to use. There are a lot of scale books that will help you, and here are some of them:

[https://imslp.org/wiki/Scale-Studies for Violin \(Hř%C3%ADmalý, Jan\)](https://imslp.org/wiki/Scale-Studies_for_Violin_(Hř%C3%ADmalý,_Jan))

[https://imslp.org/wiki/Scale and Chord Exercises for the Violin \(Ritter%2C Ernst W.\)](https://imslp.org/wiki/Scale_and_Chord_Exercises_for_the_Violin_(Ritter%2C_Ernst_W.))

[https://imslp.org/wiki/Scale Studies for the Violin \(SchradiECK%2C Henry\)](https://imslp.org/wiki/Scale_Studies_for_the_Violin_(SchradiECK%2C_Henry))

[https://imslp.org/wiki/Comprehensive Scale Manual for the Violin \(Wessely%2C Hans\)](https://imslp.org/wiki/Comprehensive_Scale_Manual_for_the_Violin_(Wessely%2C_Hans))

*GOOD LUCK!*