

## 8 steps to learn and practice vibrato

1. Without the bow, start from a base position with the instrument on the shoulder parallel to the floor. Keep the left hand free of tension by holding the instrument with just the shoulder.

2. Go to 3rd position and start bending back and forth finger by finger keeping the tip of the finger always on the same note. Remember not to grab the violin too tight and keep a boxed finger joint as shown below.



If you need extra help, use your bow hand (right hand) and/or a wall and cloth to support your instrument against your neck and move your hand back and forth.

3. After getting the back-and-forth motion of the knuckles smoothly in the 3rd position, feel free to find the same motion with bigger and smaller movements from your arm, wrist, and finger knuckles. Then, translate it to the first position.

4. Find a constant pattern (speed) for each finger on the same string and proceed to practice a 1 or 2 octave scale, feel free to ignore the vibrato motion on the open strings for now.

5. Practice with a metronome at 60 bpm, increasing every time around the scale the amount of wiggles the finger is doing (2-3-4-6-8). If you do not have a metronome, use a clock or timer to follow the beats of the seconds.

6. Mix different speeds, starting from slow to fast on each finger and fast to slow on the second time around. Try with a steady bow speed the first two times, then mix them up slowing and increasing the speed of the bow along with the vibrato speed.

7. Practice not-so-mechanical rhythm patterns, mix the speed of the vibrato motion even more. For example; Slow-fast-slow-fast-faster-slow.

8. Start adding vibrato to the music you already have memorized.

Remember that Vibrato is an ornament and a tool that you can use wisely to communicate your musical ideas to the audience even better.