

Let's Read Music: Violin

XI. Whole Notes and a New B

These sheets have alluded to whole notes before. Now they will actually explain what the whole note is.

Goal: recognize a whole note and learn to read the pitch "B."



This is a whole note. It's already been explained that a whole note can be divided into four quarter notes, or into two half notes. Generally, whole notes are the longest notes you will see in a given measure. Since they are divided into four quarter notes, they cannot fit in time signatures with less than four quarter notes, like $\frac{3}{4}$.



The new pitch for this lesson sheet is another B. This sits just above the first ledger line above the treble clef, as shown by the whole note on this measure. For now, you will play this note with your fourth finger on the E string.

Exercise 7.1 - While counting in four, bow the pitches on the measures below.

One Two Three Four One Two Three Four One Two Three Four One Two Three Four

Exercise 7.2 - The fourth finger on the violin also allows you to play open string notes on the string below. The measures below uses the same fingers as the notes in Exercise 7.1, but on the A-string.

One Two Three Four One Two Three Four One Two Three Four One Two Three Four

Exercise 7.3 - Like in Exercise 7.2, the notes in this exercise uses the same fingers as exercise 7.1, but on the D-string.

One Two Three Four One Two Three Four One Two Three Four One Two Three Four

Exercise 7.4 - When playing the exercise below, use your fourth finger to play the normally open string notes.

Coursework

Coursework 7.1 - Two of the measures on staff one have notes that can be rewritten as whole notes for the full measure. Rewrite all the measures from Staff 1 onto Staff 2 and change those two measures to whole notes.

Staff 1

Staff 2

Creativity Exercise: Fill out the following four-four measures with your own assortment of notes. You are free to use any pitches and note values you desire, but the new "B" on the E-String and a whole note must be used at least once.