

Harmonics

How to Play Harmonics



If you place the finger very very lightly, halfway along the string, you'll hear the note you want to play sound as a thin, floaty 'whistling' sound. This is called a 'harmonic'.

Try putting your hand right up the neck of the violin, as far as the body of the instrument. Then stretch your 4th finger out on the A string towards you.

The sound should be an octave (eight notes) higher than the open string.

◦ Harmonics

Keep the finger touch light and the bow speed swift, to help achieve a beautiful sound on all strings.

Once you have found the correct place for the harmonic on the A string, find the harmonics on the G, D and E strings too.

Here is a tune that uses the D and A harmonics. Give it a try!



Humming Bat

Hum - ming bat, fly - ing high, hear how he sings.

5 What a strange crea - ture with bright co - loured wings!

Now try this five notes lower, starting on the G harmonic. Your left arm will need to swing to the right to help you reach the G string harmonic with the 4th finger.