A REFERENCE FOR EVERY STRING

Extended Position Reference Chart

Learn where the hand goes. The key decides the rest.

THE ONE RULE THAT MATTERS

A position is defined by where the FIRST finger lands — nothing else. Find that one note and the hand has arrived. The notes the other three fingers play are decided by the key you are in, not by the position.

FIRST	finger 1 sits a whole step above the open string
THIRD	finger 1 sits a fourth above the open string — where finger 3 sat in first position
FIFTH	finger 1 sits a sixth above the open string
SEVENTH	finger 1 sits an octave above the open string

READ THIS BEFORE THE TABLES

Positions do not stack by a fixed interval, and the hand shape is not the same in every position. Anyone who tells you otherwise will end up a semitone out. Use the landmark.

THE WHOLE CHART ON ONE PAGE

Where Finger 1 Lands

Four positions, four strings. Sixteen notes to know.

POSITION	G string	D string	A string	E string
First position	A	E	B	F♯
Third position	C	G	D	A
Fifth position	E	B	F♯	C♯
Seventh position	G	D	A	E

Seventh position is the easiest landmark on the instrument.

Finger 1 plays the octave of the open string. G string → G. D string → D. A → A. E → E.

IN FLAT KEYS

Fifth position sits a half step lower in flat keys — E-flat on the G string, B-flat on the D, F on the A, C on the E. First, third and seventh keep the landmarks above.

WHAT THE OTHER FINGERS DO

The Three Hand Shapes

The position tells you where the hand sits. The key tells you which shape the hand makes. They are chosen separately — that is the part most charts get wrong.

Low 2

Fingers 1 and 2 close together

2 is a half step above 1. The gap falls between 2 and 3.



High 2

Fingers 2 and 3 close together

2 is a whole step above 1. The gap falls between 1 and 2.



High 3

Fingers 3 and 4 close together

The gap falls between 2 and 3, with 3 reaching up to 4.



PUTTING IT TOGETHER

A Worked Example

Third position on the A string, in D major.

1. **Find the landmark.**
   Third position: finger 1 a fourth above the open A. That is D.

2. **Choose the shape from the key.**
   D major has F-sharp and C-sharp. From D, the next notes are E, F-sharp, G.

3. **Read the gap.**
   E to F-sharp is a whole step; F-sharp to G is a half. Fingers 3 and 4 are close — high 3.

4. **The hand is set.**
   1 = D · 2 = E · 3 = F-sharp · 4 = G

CHANGE THE KEY, CHANGE THE SHAPE

In C major the same third position on the A string gives D, E, F, G — fingers 2 and 3 close instead. The hand has not moved. Only the key changed.

Find the landmark. Let the key do the rest.