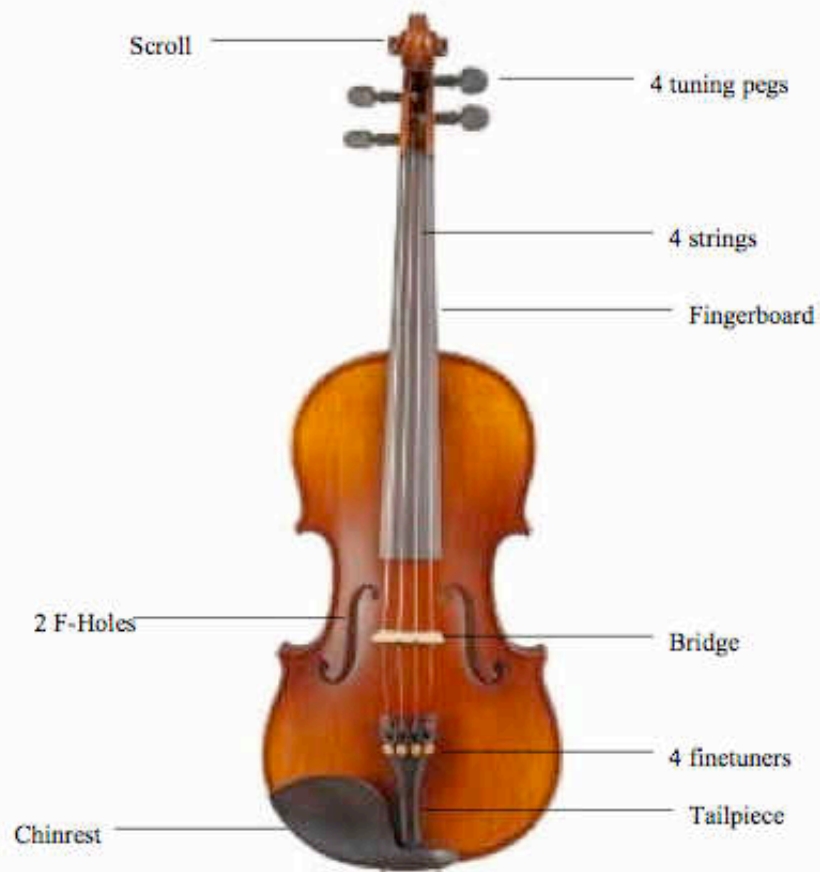
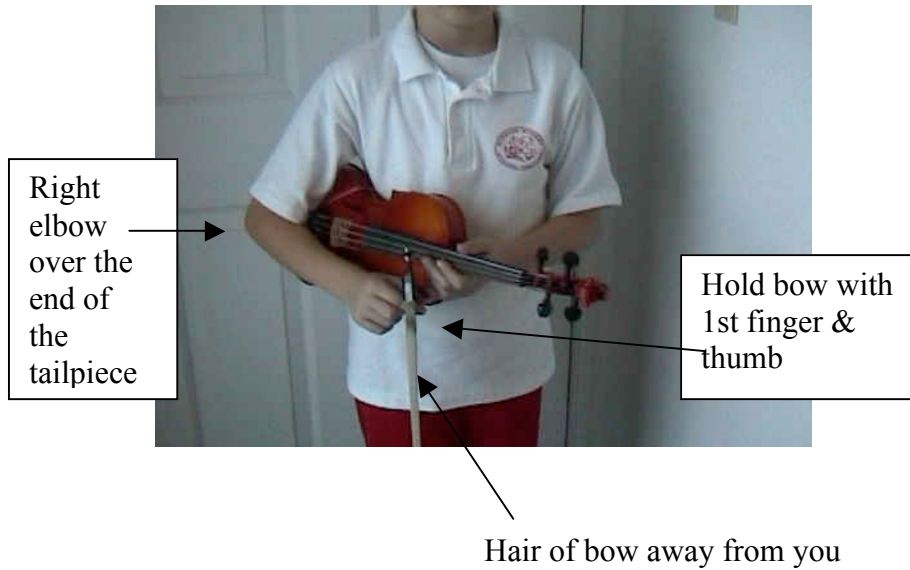


Parts of the fiddle (or violin)



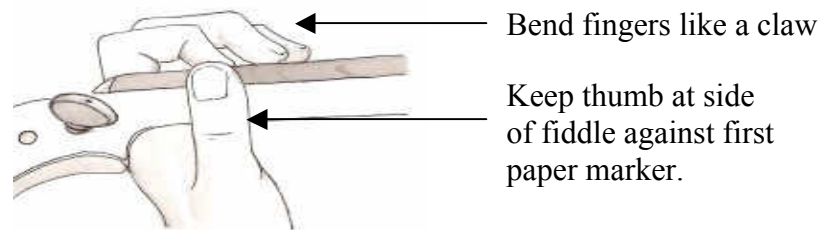
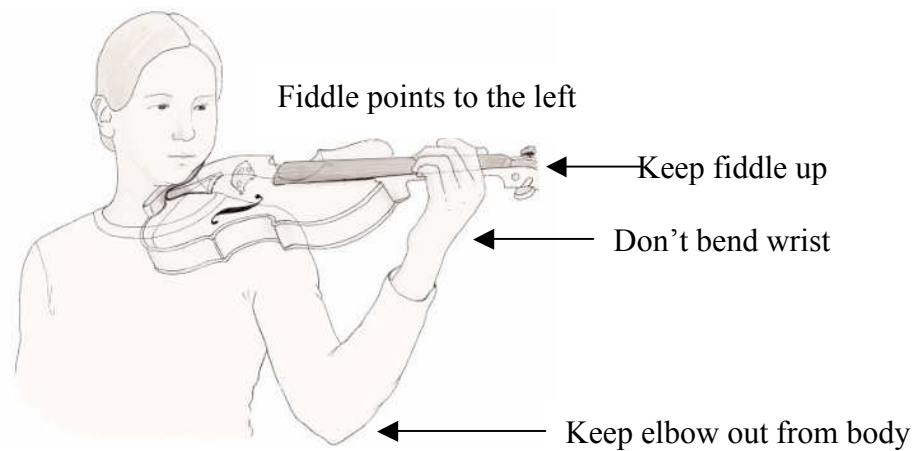
Rest position

(when you're not playing)



Holding the fiddle

(in the playing position - with your left hand)



Practice holding the fiddle properly in the playing position.
Look down at the 4 strings.

The string on the right is the thinnest and is called the 1st string
or the E string.

The string next to it is called the 2nd string or A string.

Plucking

Hold the fiddle properly with your left hand in the playing position.

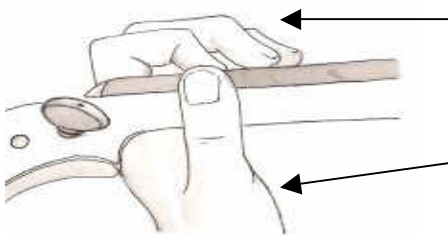
Using your right hand: put your thumb against the side of the fingerboard and pluck the E string gently with your first finger. Keep the other three fingers curled up and out of the way.



Now pluck the A string gently.

Practice playing this:

AAAA	E'E'E'E'
AAAA	E'E'E'E'
AAE'E'	AAE'E'
AE'AE'	AE'A -



Bend the fingers like a claw as shown already above.

All the time make sure to keep your wrist straight and don't let it bend up towards the fiddle.

Keep thumb at side of fiddle against first paper marker.

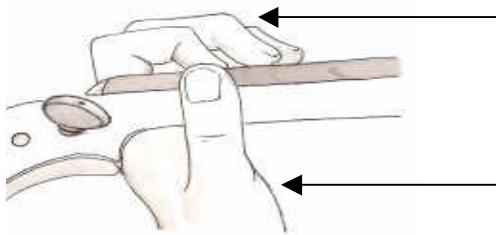
Making new notes on the A string

So far you have learned to play notes by plucking the open strings. By placing the fingers of your left hand on the strings (called stopping the strings) you can make new notes.

Place your first finger on the first paper marker on the A string and pluck and you will sound the note B. Make sure you press hard enough to get a clear note.

Practice playing this:

AAAA	BBBB
AAAA	BBBB
AABB	AABB
ABAB	ABA –



Bend the fingers like a claw as shown already above. When you press the tip of the finger onto the string - don't let it flatten.

All the time make sure to keep your wrist straight and don't let it bend up towards the fiddle.

Keep thumb at side of fiddle against first paper marker.

Place your second finger on the second paper marker on the A string and pluck and you will sound the note C# (called C sharp). Make sure you press hard enough to get a clear note.

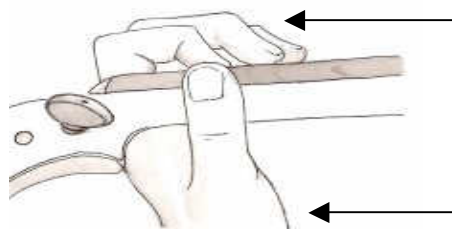
Practice playing this:

AAAA	C# C# C# C#
AAAA	C# C# C# C#
AA C# C#	AA C# C#
A C# A C#	A C# A -

Place your third finger on the third paper marker on the A string and pluck and you will sound the note D' (call it high D). Make sure you press hard enough to get a clear note.

Practice playing this:

AAAA	D' D' D' D'
AAAA	D' D' D' D'
AA D' D'	AA D' D'
A D' A D'	A D' A -



← Bend the fingers like a claw as shown already above. When you press the tip of the finger onto the string - don't let it flatten.

← All the time make sure to keep your wrist straight and don't let it bend up towards the fiddle.

Keep thumb at side of fiddle against first paper marker.

Holding the bow

Learn the parts of the bow.



Now follow the pictures below to learn how to hold the bow with the fingers of your right hand.

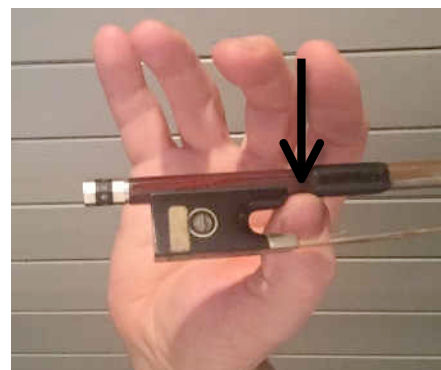
With your left hand:

1. Hold the stick of the bow near the silver wire wrap – the screw to the right & the hair facing the ground.



With your right hand:

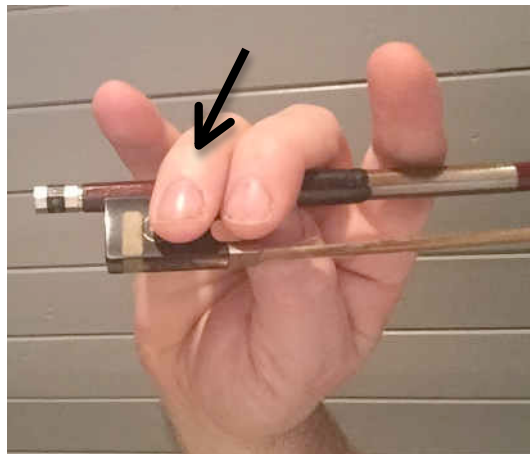
2. *Thumb*: bend it and put the tip on the stick in the gap between the frog and the black pad.



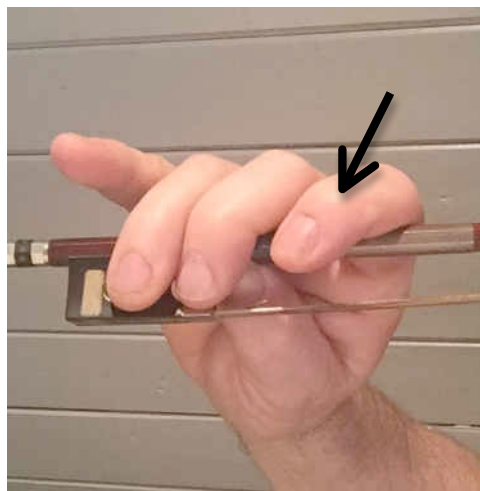
3. *2nd finger*: Put the 1st joint on the stick opposite the thumb. It should form a circle with the thumb.



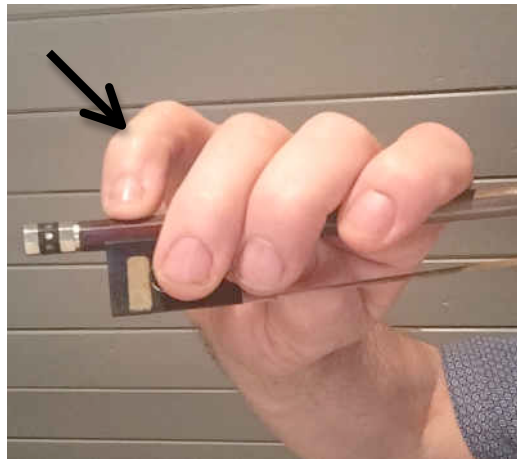
4. *3rd finger*: Put the 1st joint on the stick.



5. *1st finger*: Put the 2nd joint on the stick. Curl it slightly around the stick. Notice that the fingers are pointing slightly toward the screw.



6. *Little finger*: Bend it and put the tip on top of the stick.



There should be a small space between all the fingers.
The fingers should point slightly towards the screw.
Take your left hand away.
Make sure your hand is relaxed and don't grip the bow too tight.

Practise these steps until you can pick up and hold the bow correctly.

Practise “windshield wipers” with the bow.

Placing the bow on the strings.

Each time before you play you need to tighten the hair of the bow by turning the screw. Don't overtighten it – just enough to be able to put your little finger between the hair and stick at the middle of the bow. (You must loosen the bow when you are finished playing). Put rosin on the bow – rubbing it up and down the full length of the bow.

Take up the bow – holding it correctly.
Take up the fiddle – holding it correctly.



Bowing the E or 1st string

Place the bow on the E string halfway between the bridge and the end of the fingerboard. Keep it in line with the bridge.

You will need to bend your wrist to do this.

Make sure the bow doesn't hit any of the other strings.

Use the full length of the bow and try to get an even sound – without scratches.

Don't "lose" your correct bow grip.

Bowing the A or 2nd string

Your right elbow will need to be higher.

Use the full length of the bow and avoid hitting the strings on either side of the A string.

Keep the bow in line with the bridge.

Bow long, slow & straight.

Don't "lose" your correct bow grip.

Now play the tune you learnt earlier – this time bowing instead of plucking:

AAAA E'E'E'E'

AAAA E'E'E'E'

AAE'E' AAE'E'

AE'AE' AE'A –

Don't forget to loosen the bow when you are finished playing.

Now you will play the other practice pieces you learnt earlier – this time bowing instead of plucking. For these you will use the “A” string only. *Remember to tighten and rosin the bow before you play.*

Play the following using A (open string) and B (1st finger):

AAAA BBBB
AAAA BBBB
AABB AABB
ABAB ABA –

Play the following using A (open string) and C# (2nd finger):

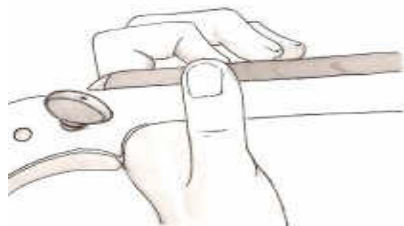
AAAA C# C# C# C#
AAAA C# C# C# C#
AA C# C# AA C# C#
A C# A C# A C# A -

Play the following using A (open string) and D' (3rd finger):

AAAA D' D' D' D'
AAAA D' D' D' D'
AA D' D' AA D' D'
A D' A D' A D' A –

Keep checking the following while you play:

Left hand – holding the fiddle:



Bend the fingers like a claw.
When you press the tip of the finger onto the string - don't let it flatten.
All the time keep your wrist straight and don't let it bend up towards the fiddle.

Right hand – holding the bow:

Keep the bow straight with the bridge



Keep your fingers in place and don't lose the correct bow grip.



Remember to loosen the bow when you finish playing.

The D string

The D string is the 3rd string on the fiddle – next to the A string.

Bow the open D string to get the note D.

Place your first finger on the first paper marker on the D string. Bowing this note will give the note E.

Play the following using D (open string) and E (1st finger):

DDDD	EEEE
DDDD	EEEE
DDEE	DDEE
DEDE	DED –

Place your second finger on the second paper marker on the D string. Bowing this note will give the note F#.

Play the following using D (open string) and F# (2nd finger):

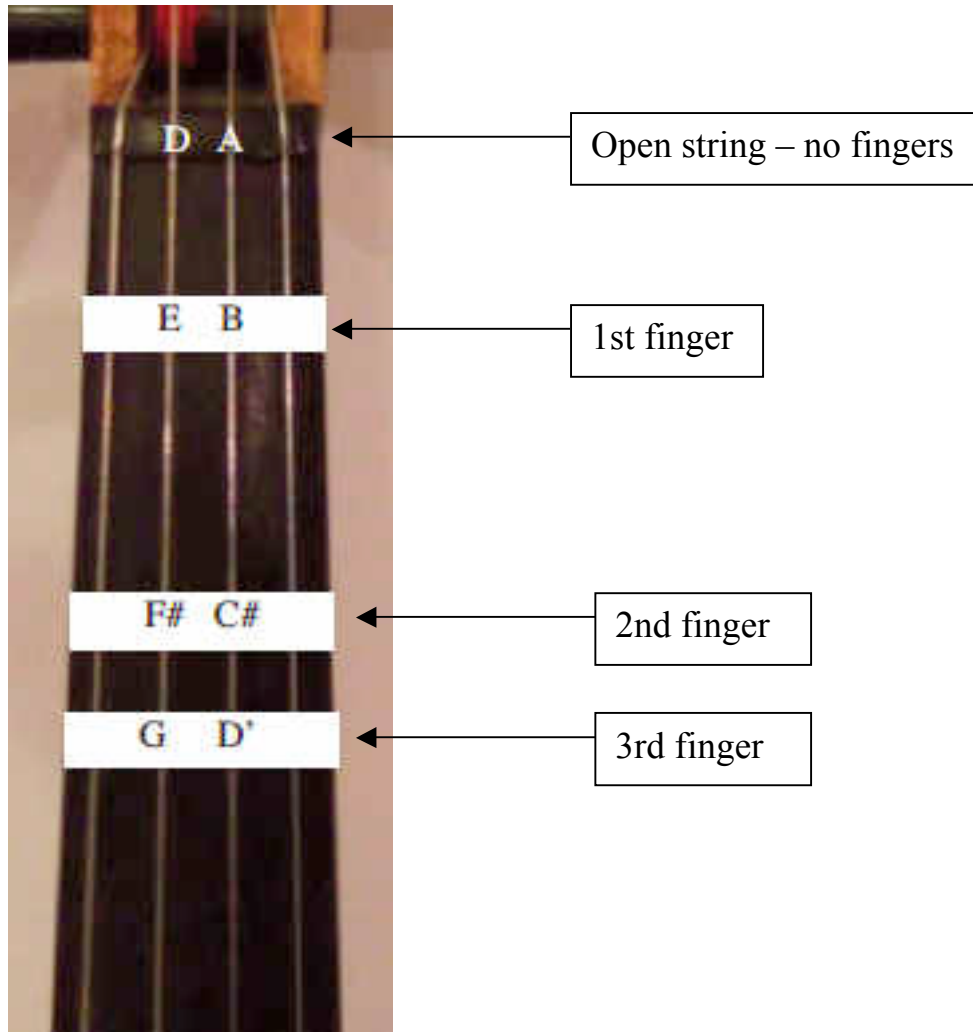
DDDD	F# F# F# F#
DDDD	F# F# F# F#
DD F# F#	DD F# F#
D F#D F#	D F#D –

Place your third finger on the third paper marker on the D string. Bowing this note will give the note G.

Play the following using D (open string) and G (3rd finger):

DDDD	GGGG
DDDD	GGGG
DDGG	DDGG
DGDG	DGD –

This chart shows the notes you have learnt so far:



You can now play the D scale – 8 notes from D to D’

	← D string →				← A string →			
Finger:	0	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
	D	E	F#	G	A	B	C#	D’

Look at the **notes above** and play the D scale up from D to D’ – playing each note 4 times.

Look at the **notes above** and play the D scale down from D’ to D – playing each note 4 times.

First tunes on the fiddle

These tunes use: 3 notes - D, E & F#
2 fingers - 1st & 2nd
1 string - D

1. HOT CROSS BUNS (F#)

	F - E -	D - - -
F - E -	D - - -	
DDDD	EEEE	
F - E -	D - - -	

2. BIRDS FLY (F#)

	D - E -	DDE -
DDEE	F - - -	
F - E -	FFEE	
FFEE	D - - -	

3. ICE CREAM CONE (F#)

	D - E -	F - - -
D - E -	F - - -	
FFEE	FFEE	
D - E -	D - - -	

4. DID YOU EVER WONDER WHY? (F#)

	FEFE	FFF -
FFEE	DDD -	
FEFE	FFF -	
FFEE	DDD -	



Open string

1st finger

2nd finger

More tunes on the fiddle

These tunes use: 3 notes - A, B & F#
2 fingers - 1st & 2nd
2 strings - D & A

5. RAIN, RAIN (F#)

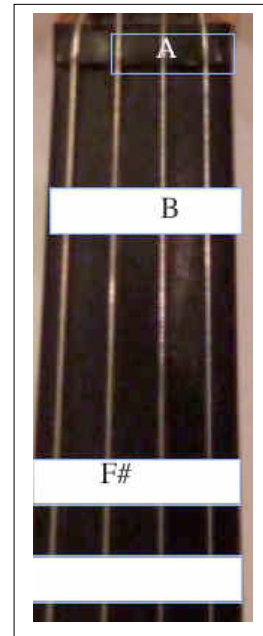
|| A - F - | AAF - |
| AAFB | AAF - ||

6. MILL WHEEL (F#)

|| ABAF | ABA - |
| ABAF | ABA - ||

7. BELL HORSES (F#)

	A - FF	A - FF
AABB	A - - -	
AAF -	AAF -	
A - BB	A - - -	



Open string

1st finger

2nd finger

More tunes on the fiddle

These tunes use: 3 notes - A, B & G
2 fingers - 1st & 3rd
2 strings - D & A

(These tunes are the ones on page 14 also – using BAG instead of F#ED)

8. HOT CROSS BUNS

	B - A -	G - - -
B - A -	G - - -	
GGGG	AAAA	
B - A -	G - - -	

9. BIRDS FLY

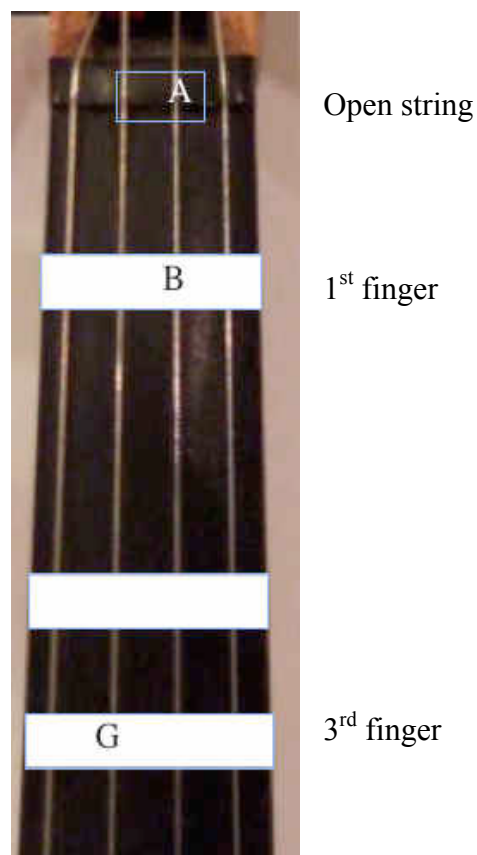
	G - A -	GGA -
GGAA	B - - -	
B - A -	BBAA	
BBAA	G - - -	

10. ICE CREAM CONE

	G - A -	B - - -
G - A -	B - - -	
BBAA	BBAA	
G - A -	G - - -	

11. DID YOU EVER WONDER WHY?

	BABA	BBB -
BBAA	GGG -	
BABA	BBB -	
BBAA	GGG -	



Twinkle Twinkle (F#)

	DD AA	BB A -
GG FF	EE D -	
AA GG	FF E -	
AA GG	FF E -	
DD AA	BB A -	
GG FF	EE D -	

Suantraí (F#)

|| FEFA | FEFA | FEDE | F - E - |
 | AFEF | AFEF | AFEF | D - D - ||

Au Clair de la Lune

	GGGA	B - A -
GBAA	G - - -	
GGGA	B - A -	
GBAA	G - - -	
AAAA	E - E -	
AGFE	D - - -	
GGGA	B - A -	
GBAA	G - - -	

Two Legs

	GGGA	B - D' -
A - D' -	B - D' -	
GGGA	B - D' -	
AAAB	G - - -	

Seáinín ar a Rothar (F# C#)

	DEFG	A - A -
BD'CB	A - A -	
DEFG	A - A -	
F - E -	D - - -	

Row your Boat (F#)

	D - -	D - -
D - E	F - -	
F - E	F - G	
A - -	- - -	
D'D'D'	AAA	
FFF	DDD	
A - G	F - E	
D - -	- - -	

French Folk Tune (F# C#)

	D'D'D'	CCC	BCD'	A - -
GGG	FFF	EEE	D - -	
DEF	DEF	DEF	G - -	
EFG	EFG	EFG	A - -	
D'CB	AGF	EDE	D - -	

Dingle Polka (F#)

	: DEFG	AGFE
DEFG	A - A -	
DEFG	AGFE	
DEFA	G - G - :	

	: D'BAG	B - A -
DEFG	A - A -	
D'BAG	B - A -	
DEFA	G - G - :	

Rattling Bog

	B - BA	GEE -
DGGA	BAA -	
B - BA	GEE -	
DD'D'B	AGG -	

	BGAG	BGAG
BD'D'B	AGA -	
BGAG	BGAG	
BD'D'B	AGG -	

