Embrace the Freedom of Shifting!

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Have you practiced shifting for so many hours, and the accuracy is not what we expected with poor intonation? Sometimes, the shifts are lagging and unreliable, and we choose to play everything as compromised as in the first position whenever possible. After such bad results, the situation seems unforgiving because it will stop us from pursuing fine playing.

There are two shift settings: mechanical and later melodic shifts. They have one fundamental requirement – intonation accuracy and flawless movement timing. In general, shifting ensues before establishing our fingers on the fingerboard.

Shifts are crucial for string playing, and it allows the transition from one position to the other with distinct fingerings. An intelligent shift enriches the phrasing and elaborates more musical concepts. Though there are various techniques to shift, understanding and anticipating every segment of the process is the key to success.

"Developing a good and solid foundation of shifting will allow you to have more freedom in musical expression."

There are a few quick reminders when working on shifts:

1. **Fingering assurance** is needed to enable the shifts with fluency and benefit the musical process. Refer to the coordination of the elbow, thumb and fingers for shifting, positioning and fingering.
2. Shifts demand the **precision of intonation**. It is necessary to mentally hear the pitch and intervals between notes along the lyrical passage before action involvement.
3. Practice with the **metronome**. The discipline of the beat provides more excellent opportunities for perfect timing in shifts, and it will subsequently advance for a more refined melodic shifting technique.

In conclusion, practice gradually and observe every element of required shifting movement. Develop a good and solid foundation of shifting that allows greater freedom in music-making.