

Practicing Shifts: Intermediate Notes (Part 1)

Larger shifts often involve two tasks: changing position, and changing fingers. When practicing these shifts, we approach these two tasks separately. To do so, we must first identify an extra note which uses the finger of the first note in the position of the second one. You can do this easily by shifting to the target note, then finding the note that the previous finger now occupies. Study this example:

The intermediate note is "d"

Once you've identified the intermediate note, you can break the shift into its two parts. Begin by slowly shifting from the first note to the intermediate note, then playing the target note (see measure A below). While keeping the tempo steady, *gradually* make the shift to the intermediate note later and shorter (measures B and C), until it "disappears" (measure D). The examples below are stages in the process; **many repetitions** and **gradual change** are the key to mastering these shifts.

EXERCISE: Identify the intermediate note for each of the following shifts. Draw only the note head, and provide the fingering for the note as well.