

## Sharps and Naturals

Yellow Award – Play and hear the difference between #'s and naturals.

Up until now, your main finger pattern has been the same on each string; 1<sup>st</sup> finger – 2<sup>nd</sup> finger is not played – 3<sup>rd</sup> finger – 4<sup>th</sup> finger.



Can you see that sometimes we use fingers that are next to each other and sometimes we miss a finger out? When the fingers are next to each other, they are called **semitones** (look at the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> finger). When we miss a finger out, the fingers either side are called **tones** (look at the big gap between 1<sup>st</sup> finger and 3<sup>rd</sup> finger when we miss the 2<sup>nd</sup> finger out).

Second and third finger is the focus of this exercise.

Try *Hot Cross Buns* below. It just uses open D and 1<sup>st</sup> and 3rd finger on the D string.

Hot Cross Buns    Hot Cross Buns    one a pen-ny two a pen-ny    Hot Cross Buns

F#   E   D    F#   E   D    D D D D   E E E E   F#   E   D  
 3   1   0    3   1   0    0 0 0 0   1 1 1 1   3   1   0

This time, you are going to use your 2<sup>nd</sup> finger instead of your 3<sup>rd</sup> finger.

Your finger pattern is now 1<sup>st</sup> finger – 2<sup>nd</sup> finger – 3<sup>rd</sup> finger is not played – 4<sup>th</sup> finger.

Now try this version with the new 2<sup>nd</sup> finger:

Cold Cross Buns    Cold Cross Buns    one a pen-ny two a pen-ny    Cold Cross Buns

F   E   D    F   E   D    D D D D   E E E E   F   E   D  
 2   1   0    2   1   0    0 0 0 0   1 1 1 1   2   1   0

Can you hear the difference between *Hot Cross Buns* and *Cold Cross Buns*?

If you use your 3<sup>rd</sup> finger, it makes a “happy” sound. This note is an **F sharp**. A sharp (#) raises the note and makes it sound higher.

If you use your 2<sup>nd</sup> finger, it makes a “sad” sound. This note is an **F natural**. A natural cancels out the sharp, making it sound lower and therefore sadder.

Try this on your different strings.

Try this out on other pieces that you are playing. Does it change the character and the emotion of the piece?