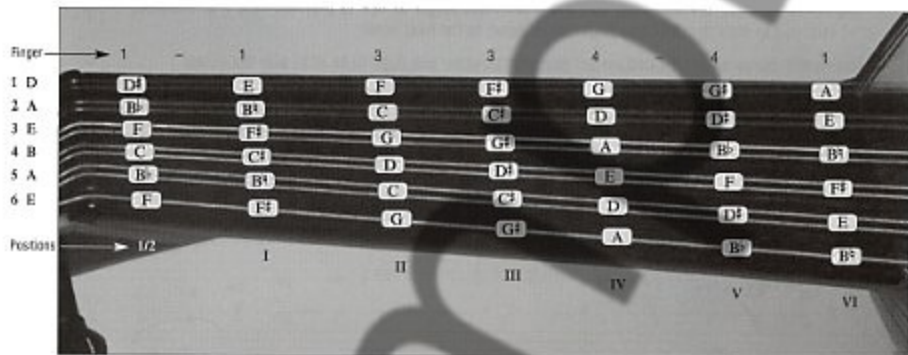


THE FINGERBOARD

This diagram shows six **positions** on the fingerboard of the oud, as well as the $\frac{1}{2}$ position closest to the nut, and the fingering that corresponds to each. These positions will be referred to throughout this book, so look back at this chart often. It also shows where the notes are on each string. The sixth position is where your left hand meets the body of the oud. Roman numerals are used throughout the book to indicate fingerboard positions.

The diagram also introduces **sharps** (♯) and **flats** (♭), also known as **accidentals**. ♯ is the note between F and G; ♭ is the note between A and B. A **natural sign** (♮) next to a note cancels out a previous sharp or flat. You will learn more about accidentals as you progress.

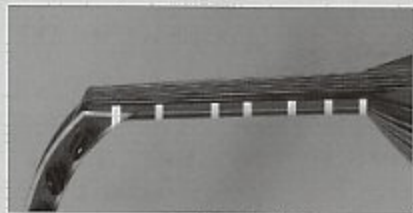


SHIFTING POSITIONS

Notice that when you move from one position to the next, your entire hand will shift. Try playing the $\frac{1}{2}$ -position F note on string 6 with your first finger. Then play the F♯ note in first position on the same string with the first finger; your hand shifts up the fingerboard, so you are now in the next position.

FINGERBOARD TIPS

For help finding the positions along the oud neck, put a small piece of colored tape along the edge of the entire fingerboard showing positions $\frac{1}{2}$ through 6. This will help you play in tune by showing where to put your fingers on the fingerboard.



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