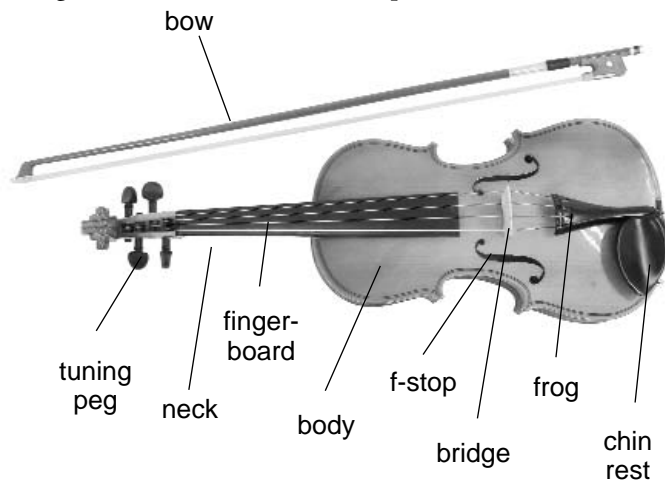


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# Taking care of your violin

Congratulations! You have a new violin and are about to begin a wonderful musical adventure. But before you get started, there are some important things you should know about your new musical instrument. These instructions are very basic and we suggest you seek help from a musician familiar with the violin.

When you are not using it, you should protect your violin by storing it in its nylon case. Never leave the violin near a heater, radiator, stove or other source of extreme heat. Never leave it outside in winter or in a very cold room either. If you take it in a car, don't leave it in the trunk on a hot day or a very cold day. These things can cause the wood to warp or even crack.



A small sponge or cloth can be attached with a rubber band around the **chin rest** to make playing the instrument more comfortable.

The first time you remove your violin from its case, you will have to install the bridge. If you look closely at the top of the bridge, you will notice that one side is higher than the other. The bridge should be installed so that this higher side is underneath the thinner strings. Making sure that the strings are fairly loose, lay the bridge on its side between the two f-stops (scrolled holes in top of violin). Then raise the bridge into place. It should be positioned directly over the sound post peg, which you can locate by looking inside the violin, exactly

in the center of the two f-stops. The sound post is mid-way between the two f-stops.

A beginning player should ask someone familiar with string instruments for help in tuning it. When tuning, push against the **neck** on the opposite side of the **peg** being turned to avoid breaking off the scroll or neck of the instrument.

When tuning and after tuning, check the **bridge** to make sure it is perpendicular with the **body** of violin. When re-adjusting, hold bridge with two thumbs and middle fingers at the base of the bridge and index fingers at the top of the bridge. **SLOWLY** adjust to position with index fingers. When putting bridge back on, loosen strings a bit and place bridge under strings in position, lining up sides of bridge (horizontally) with the centers of the **f-stops**. Over tightening the strings may cause them to break.

Replacement strings are available from most musical instrument stores. If a string breaks, pull out the old one, and put the colored, straight end into the hole in designated peg. Put the other end into the hole on the "**frog**". Slowly tighten while pushing peg into its hole (the peg is tapered and will hold better if it is pushed in the hole while turning). A replaced string will take a few days to stretch, so it will need extra tuning and playing to adjust itself.

Before playing instrument, tighten the **bow** (about 3 turns, normally the width of the baby finger from hair to rod or a little less). Do not over tighten. If the bow rod is arching, it has been over tightened. The rosin will allow the bow to make a better sound with the strings, but do not apply too much. Be careful not to touch the bow hair. Oil from your hands will counteract the rosin. Always loosen the bow (about 3 turns) before storing it in the case.

You should use a soft, cotton cloth to clean rosin from the strings, **fingerboard** and body of the violin after each use. Don't forget to cut your nails before playing!

