

STRING CARE

When putting on new strings, do not over-tune and stretch them. Graphite or soft pencil lead may be applied sparingly to the string grooves in the nut and bridge to smooth the movement of the strings.

Most student-line instruments come equipped with metal "tuners" or "adjusters" on the tailpiece. Individual strings are tuned upwards by turning the tuner knob in a clockwise direction, thereby increasing string tension. There is a limit to how often this can be done, as the screw loses adjustability in its lower position, and may even damage to surface of the instrument. When the screw is near its lower limit, it needs to be raised (reversed) fully to its upper position, and the string *must be tuned with its peg only*. Then the tuner will again be of use. Gut or synthetic core strings do not work well with tuners, and instruments with these strings may only have a tuner on the highest string.

CARING FOR BOWS

Loosen the bow hair when the bow is not being used. This is the single most important thing to do regularly with the bow. If it is not done, the stick will tend to warp, and the player will not be able to phrase and articulate well. Before playing, tighten

the bow to a moderate tension so that the curve of the stick remains concave. Then rosin the bow hair by holding the rosin cake in the left hand, and running the horsehair over the cake from the frog to the tip of the bow and back again.

Never touch the bow hair with your hands. Perspiration, dirt, grease, and oily substances from fingertips prevent bow hair from taking and holding the rosin. Never touch the part of the rosin cake that comes in contact with bow hair.

GENERAL CARE

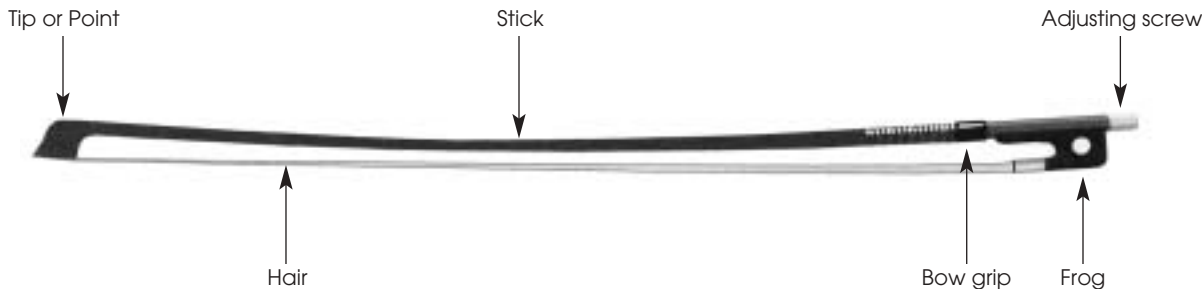
When the instrument is not being played, it should be kept in its case to prevent dust from collecting or prevent damage from accidental dropping or bumping.

If at any time you feel the instrument needs repair, bring it to Meyer Music for proper care and adjustment. Doing it yourself can damage the instrument.

Care and Maintenance of String Instruments



PARTS OF THE BOW



MEYER
music



GRAND RAPIDS
2855 Lake Eastbrook Blvd, 49512
(616) 975-1122

HOLLAND
675 East Lakewood, 49424
(616) 396-6583

MUSKEGON
1664 East Sternberg, 49444
(231) 865-7000

INSTRUMENT CARE

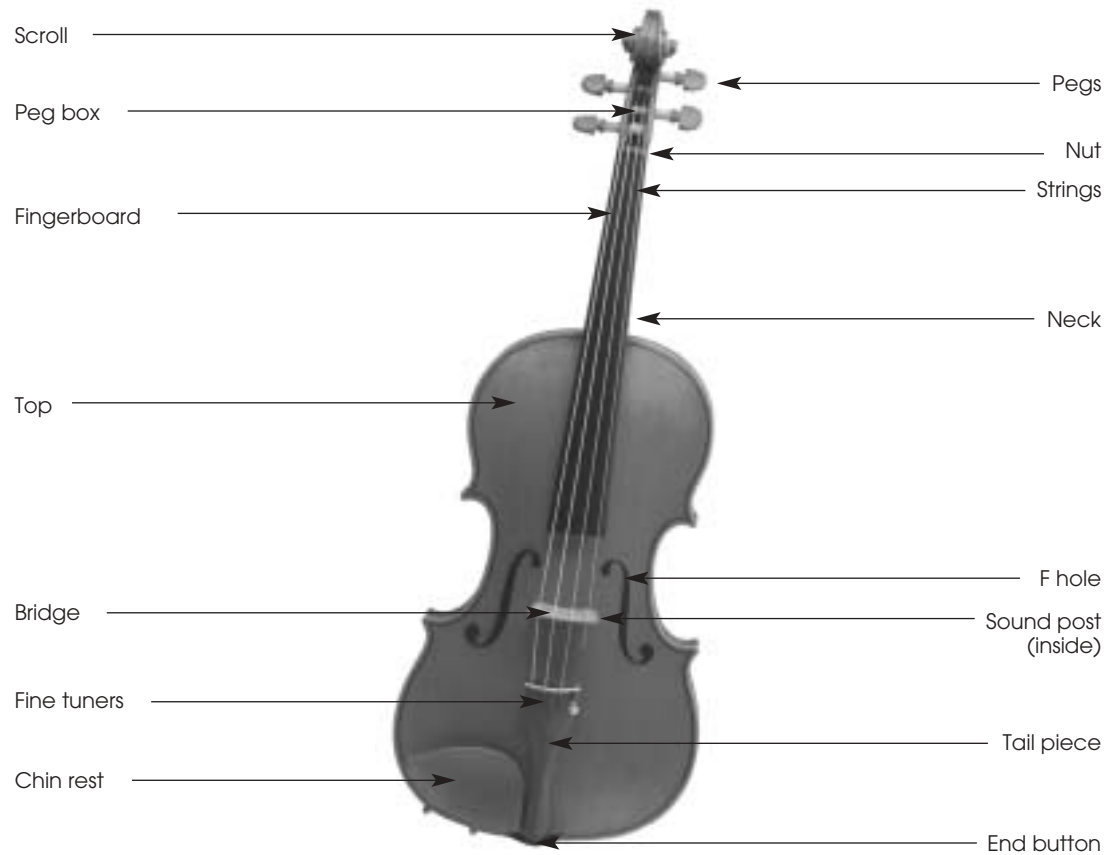
Temperature. String instruments are the most delicate of all musical instruments, since the quality woods used in their construction continue to behave like living material. They will expand and contract slightly with temperature and humidity changes. Sudden changes in temperature, such as bringing a cold instrument into a heated room, can cause severe damage to the wood and finish of a string instrument. Do not place your instrument near a heater and do not let it get too cold. Keep instruments away from radiators, hot air registers, and air conditioners. If it gets too cold in winter transit, leave it closed in the case and let it warm gradually.

Humidity. Humidity seriously affects the wood, glue, strings, and metals of string instruments. High relative humidity (dampness) swells wood, lowers the fingerboard (leaving the bridge too high), and lengthens bow hair. In extreme cases, wood may warp and become unglued. Low relative humidity (dryness) dehydrates woods and gut strings causing wood to crack and strings to break. It also raises the fingerboard (leaving the bridge too low) and shortens the bow hair. Never store instruments in damp basements or hot attics.

A small sponge humidifier (such as the “Dampit” brand) may be of help in caring for string instruments during dry winter months.

Cleaning. A soft, napless cloth may be used to remove rosin, moisture, and finger marks from the instrument and bow stick. Use the cloth after every practice and playing session. Never use alcohol or hot water to clean as they may dissolve or damage varnish. Seek the help of a qualified technician for help with the removal of rosin build-up.

PARTS OF THE VIOLIN



Pegs. Each peg is individually fitted. Pegs are not interchangeable, not even on the same instrument. String tension, as well as the friction between the two types of woods, keeps pegs in place. Wind strings one turn toward the peg end then cross over and continue winding toward the peg knob, finishing as close to the edge of the pegbox as possible. When tuning with pegs, the hand motion is both a turning motion and a subtle pushing inward, to “set” the peg in the hole. Pegs tend to stick in summer and slip in winter. Peg compound or drops will often help this problem.

Bridge. The bridge needs adjustment periodically, as tuning of the strings tends to tilt it toward the fingerboard. Occasionally check its angle, and if necessary, push the top of the bridge slightly back the other way. If not done regularly, the bridge will become bent, collapsed, or warped, and will need to be replaced. The bridge should be positioned between the inside notches of the F-holes. The low side of the bridge is under the “E” string on the violin, the “A” string on the viola and cello, and the “G” string on the bass.