

STRING CARE

Replace strings one at a time so that the soundpost does not fall. Observe how the string is wound before removing it. Wind the new string towards the peg handle. Strings will break from friction if wound tightly against the wood sidewall.

Most student instruments come equipped with fine tuners on the tailpiece. Strings are raised in pitch by turning the screw clockwise, thereby increasing string tension. 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.

BOW CARE

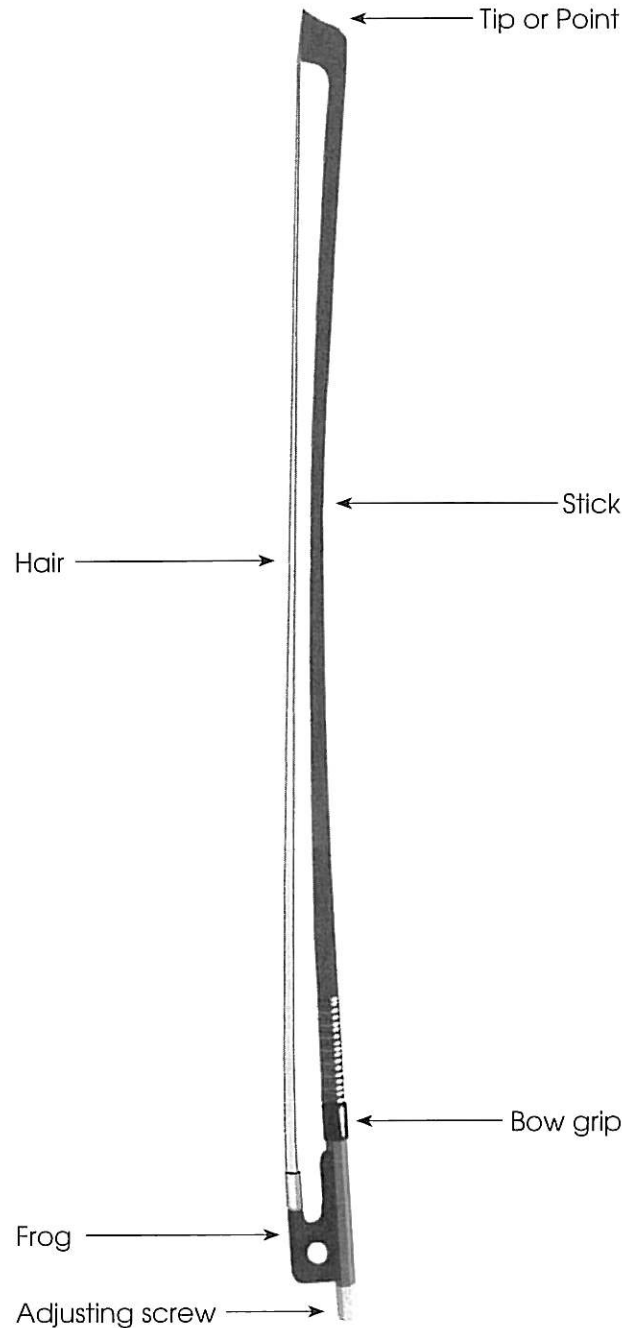
Before playing, tighten the bow to a moderate tension so that the curve of the stick remains concave. Then rosin the bow hair. Loosen the bow hair when the bow is not being used. Loosening the hair is done to keep the bow from warping.

Never touch the bow hair with your hands. Perspiration, dirt, grease, and oily substances prevent bow hair from taking and holding the rosin. Bows are fragile and should always be stored in the case when not in use.

GENERAL CARE

When the instrument is not being played it should be kept in its case to prevent damage from accidental dropping or bumping. Cellos and basses should be set down on their sides. If at any time you feel the instrument needs repair, bring it to Meyer Music for proper care and adjustment. Delicate instruments deserve professional attention.

PARTS OF THE BOW



Care and Maintenance of String Instruments



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HOLLAND
675 East Lakewood, 49424
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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 can cause severe damage to the wood and finish of a string instrument. Place your instrument away from heaters and keep it from getting too cold.

Humidity Humidity seriously affects the wood, glue and strings of a string instrument. High relative humidity (dampness) swells wood and lengthens bow hair. In extreme cases, wood may warp and become unglued. Low relative humidity (dryness) dehydrates woods causing wood to crack and shorten the bow hair. Store your instrument away from 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. Seek the assistance of a qualified technician for help with the removal of rosin build-up.

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 done regularly it will help prevent bridges from becoming bent, collapsing or warping.

Pegs Each peg is individually fitted. Pegs are not interchangeable, not even on the same instrument. When tuning with pegs, the hand motion is both a turning motion and a subtle pushing inward, to “set” the peg in the hole.

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