



String Instrument Care

Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass

Take extra care to prevent exposure to sudden changes in temperature and humidity.

Avoid direct, extended exposure to:

- Sunlight • Heaters • Air Conditioners

The Bow

• Don't over-tighten your bow. The stick of the bow should have a curve in it towards the hair. If it is over-tightened, you can cause permanent damage and the bow will need to be replaced. Always remember to loosen the bow when you are done playing to save the bow from unnecessary tension. Avoid touching the bow hairs with your fingers, as the natural oil in your skin will absorb into the hairs. Lastly, make sure you have a good amount of rosin on your bow before playing. You don't need to overdo it, but the rosin is what makes the hairs grip to the strings.

The Bridge

• Be extra careful not to bump the bridge on your instrument. It's a delicate piece of wood and can easily snap in half. The only thing keeping it in place is the tension from the strings, not glue or anything else. So if you loosen the strings too much, the bridge will most certainly fall down.

Tuning your string instrument

• It's best to avoid trying to tune your instrument on your own in the beginning. It usually takes a few years before students are ready to learn how to tune their own string instrument. First you'll need to develop your sense of pitch to know if the string is too high (sharp) or too low (flat). Then you need to get the hang of turning the tuning pegs correctly (they're tapered and need a slight push inwards to hold). Finally, use the fine tuners for minor adjustments. Your teacher will always make sure you are in tune before you start playing, and usually the pitch will hold for a few days.

Cleaning the Body -

• Before you pack up, wipe the top of your instrument down. Pay special attention to around the bridge, where the rosin tends to build up. Move slowly so you don't hit the bridge by mistake.

Storing the Instrument -

- The case should always be used for storing the instrument after playing and for transporting.
- Do not leave your instrument in a car, even for a short period of time.
- Only store your instrument in dry locations with comfortable temperatures.
- Do not put anything in the case that could place pressure on the instrument. To keep your instrument in optimum playing condition, have it cleaned and inspected by a qualified repair technician annually.

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