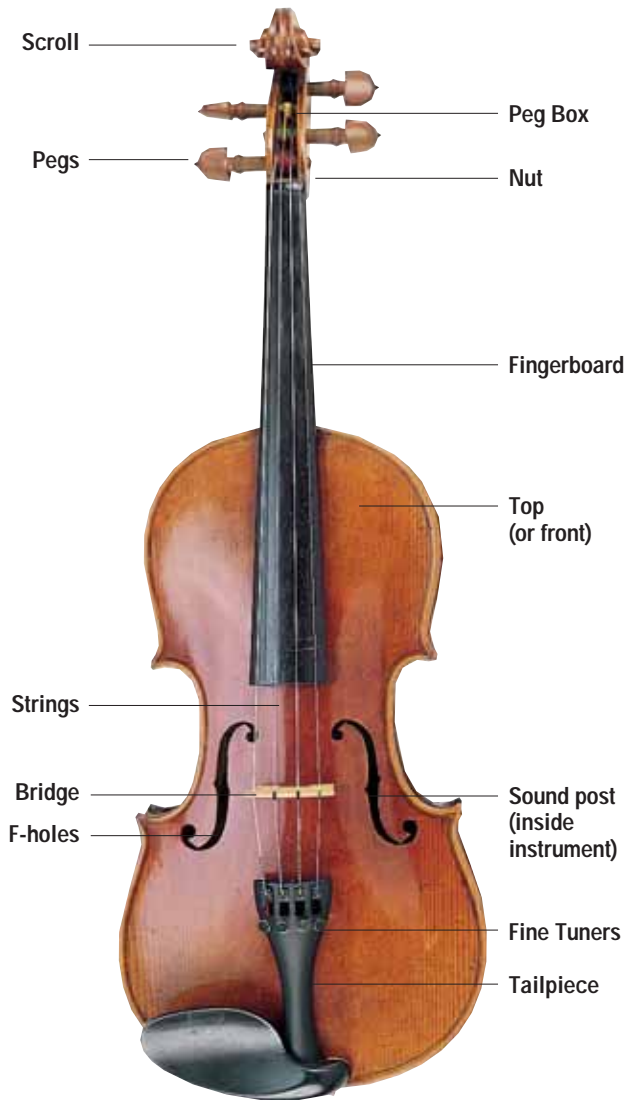


## Parts of the Instrument



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# Violin Viola & Cello

## Survival Guide

by Scott Laird

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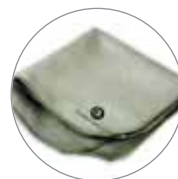
## Caring for your Instrument & Bow

### Instrument Care



Humidify

- Always store and use the instrument at room temperature.
- Use a humidifier or the Planet Waves Humidipak® to avoid damage caused by humidity variations.
- After each playing session, use a soft cloth to remove rosin residue from the instrument.
- Keep the instrument safely inside its case when not in use.
- Strings should be replaced regularly to assure the best tone and response.
- Always refer any repairs to a qualified string instrument repair technician or luthier.



Clean

### Bow Care & Rosin

- Avoid handling the bow hair directly with your fingers.
- Tighten the bow hair by turning the metal screw at the frog end of the stick clockwise several turns.
- Do not tighten the bow too much. The stick of the bow should curve toward the hair.
- Always loosen the bow when you finish playing and for storage.
- Never use the bow to hit or tap anything.
- Bow hair wears out and needs to be replaced about once per year by your instrument dealer.
- Bow hair requires rosin. The best performing rosins are made of natural materials, formulated to a fine grain.
- Apply rosin by rubbing the rosin cake along the full length of the bow hair using 6 to 8 long strokes.
- Rosin will melt if it gets too hot. Do not store it where the temperature will exceed 100 degrees F.



Apply rosin

## Installing & Tuning Strings

### Preparation



- 1) You will need replacement strings, a sharp pencil, and tuner.
- 2) Loosen and replace only one string at a time. Removing all the strings together will cause the bridge to fall.

### Remove the old string



- 1) Hold the instrument with the top facing you.
- 2) Loosen the string by turning the top of the peg toward you.
- 3) Gently pull the string off the peg by hand, and remove the ball-end from the tailpiece.

### Install the new string



- 1) Rub the tip of the pencil in the empty string grooves of the bridge and nut.
- 2) Place the ball-end of the new string into the tailpiece or fine-tuner.
- 3) Insert the other end into the small string hole at the midpoint of the peg.
- 4) Gently turn the top of the peg away from you, wrapping the string around the peg.
- 5) Wind the string so that the wrappings are close together going toward the peg handle.
- 6) Tighten the string enough to remove the slack. Make sure that the string is going through the correct bridge and nut grooves.

### Pitch & Tune



- 1) Using your tuner to hear the proper note, turn the top of the peg away from you while lightly plucking the string, bringing it up to the correct pitch. (You may need to push the peg gently into the peg box to get it to hold without slipping.)
- 2) If there is a fine tuner for the string, use the tuning peg to get the string close to pitch, and make small corrections with the fine tuner.
- 3) Check the bridge to make sure it has not started to lean during the process.
- 4) Be very careful not to tune the string too high or the string will break.

*Repeat these steps for the other strings.*

## Selecting the Proper String

### String Types, Definitions & Characteristics

Solid steel core – Relatively bright and clear sound, easy bow response, quick break-in time, and very stable and durable.



Stranded steel core – Warm clear sound, easy bow response, quick break-in time, and very stable and durable.



Synthetic core – Warmer and richer sound than steel, and more stable and durable than gut core strings.



Gut core – Warm and rich tone, but slow to break in, less stable in tuning, and the least durable of all string types. Gut core strings are recommended only for advanced players.

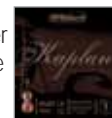


### Kaplan Solutions™ Specialty Strings:

String players often face specific performance problems or needs that can be addressed by using a specialized string. An example is the “whistling” problem that violinists can encounter when playing their open E. This can be avoided by using the Kaplan Solutions Non-Whistling E string.



Viola A string – produces greater projection in the higher register while still blending with the other strings on the instrument.



Cello A & D strings – produce a rich and powerful sound while supporting the heavy bow pressure that many players use.



### String durability

*String deterioration occurs as a result of both normal use and corrosion. Any string's tone will naturally degrade over time and also may eventually break. Strings should be replaced regularly rather than waiting for them to break.*