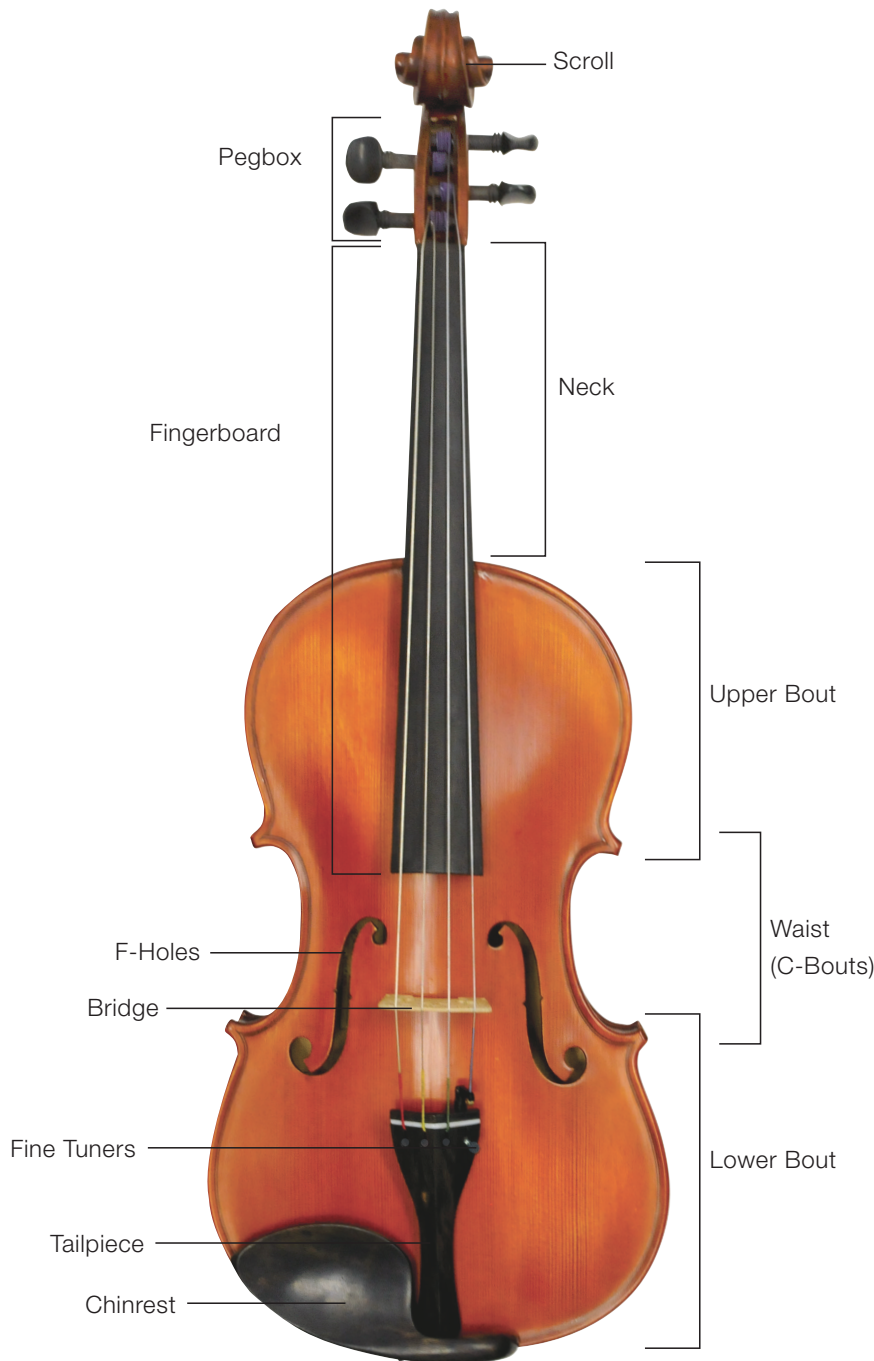


STRING Instrument CARE TIPS

Caring for your string instrument isn't hard if you understand a few basics!



Remember that your instrument is made of wood and can easily be damaged if not handled with care. Bumping the instrument against another object may damage the wood, cause the bridge to slide out of alignment, or cause the sound post (found inside instrument) to fall down. Bridges and sound posts are not glued in place, but are held by the pressure of the strings, which allows them to be replaced and adjusted as needed. If an accident should happen, bring your instrument to a West Music Repair Shop for service.



THE FITTINGS

Pegs may stick in humid weather and not hold well in dry conditions. Pegs that won't hold may need to be pushed in gently while tuning it to the proper pitch. Pegs may slightly back out and loosen if turned without applying this gentle inward pressure.

THE CHINREST

Changes in humidity may cause shrinking and swelling of the instrument and may cause the chinrest to become loose. In this event, please take care to tighten the arms of the chinrest in a clockwise motion, to secure the chinrest tighter to the instrument. A little goes a long way, only tighten enough to reduce movement.

TAILPIECE/FINE TUNERS

Check the fine tuners very closely to ensure there is plenty of screw space height to adjust the pitch. Be aware that the tuning arms located behind the tailpiece are not pushing into the top of your instrument. The tailpiece's tail gut or wrap should be centered and fastened very securely to the end-pin or end-button of your instrument.

FINGERBOARD

During play, rosin can make its way onto your fingerboard as well as your instrument's top. After each practice session, take care to wipe down the fingerboard and strings to remove rosin and dust to prolong the life of your strings.

THE WOOD

Wood may expand in humid weather and contract as it dries which can affect how your instrument functions. Do not leave your instrument in a car during extreme hot or cold weather as this can damage the instrument and the finish.



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If you should notice a problem with your instrument, bring it in as soon as possible to be serviced. Repairs to string instruments can take just a few minutes, several hours or sometimes several weeks, so don't wait until it is too late to get your instrument repaired.

800.373.2000
strings.westmusic.com

THE CASE

Don't try to force the case lid shut.

Most instrument cases are only large enough to hold the instrument, bow, rosin, and small accessories such as a mute or pitch pipe.

Only store objects such as pens and pencil in the accessory compartment of your case, otherwise they may damage the instrument when the case is closed.

Shoulder rests are best carried separately unless there is ample room in the case or the case has a compartment to hold it.

Papers or music stored in the case may squeeze against the instrument causing the bridge to break or the instrument to crack.

THE BOW

Rosin is applied to the bow hair to create friction on the strings and make them vibrate.

The bow hair should not be touched because rosin will not stick if oils from your skin get on the bow.

Not getting enough rosin on the bow will result in faint and squeaky sounds. If too much rosin is used it will come off the bow and stick to the instrument.

Wipe excess rosin off the instrument with a soft cloth.

When putting the bow away, loosen the hair a little so it is not as tight as when you are playing. Leave slight tension to help keep the hair from getting caught on something, but not warp the bow.

Cleaning your hands before and after use will help the bow hair last longer.

THE STRINGS

Every time you play and sometimes in the middle of practices and performances your instrument may need to be tuned.

Over time the strings will stretch, wear out, and sometimes break. Strings have a limited lifespan and need to be replaced when they get frayed, damaged, corroded, or have lost their tone. Replace with the same brand for consistent sound.

Keeping your hands clean before and during use will help the strings last.