



Fesley Violin manual

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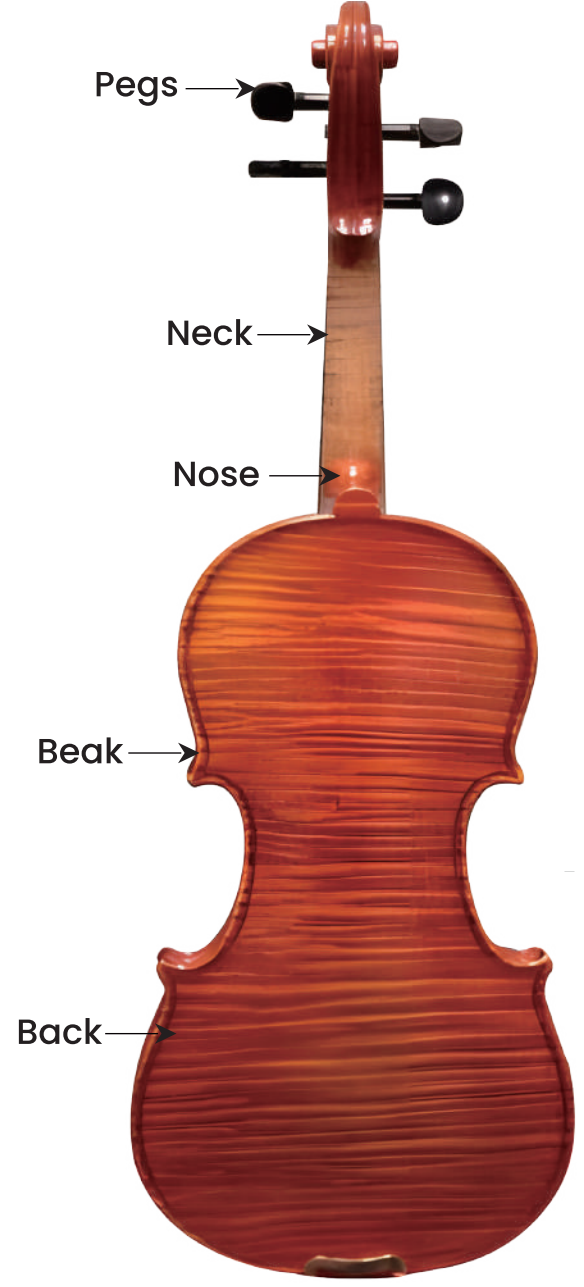
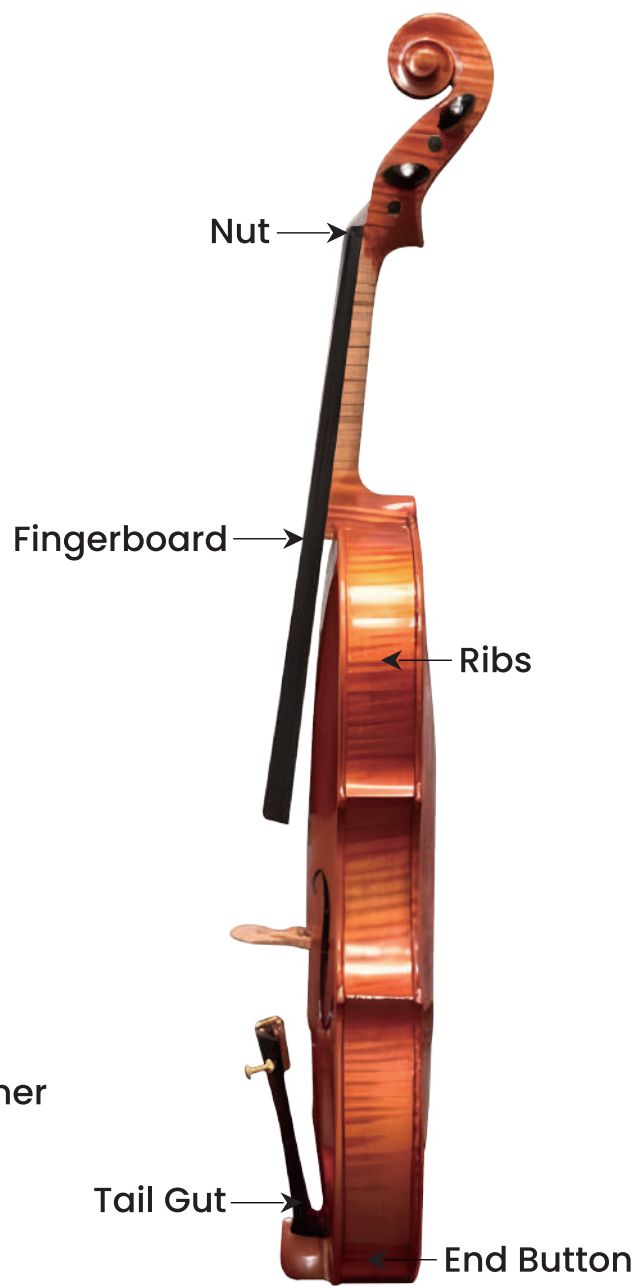
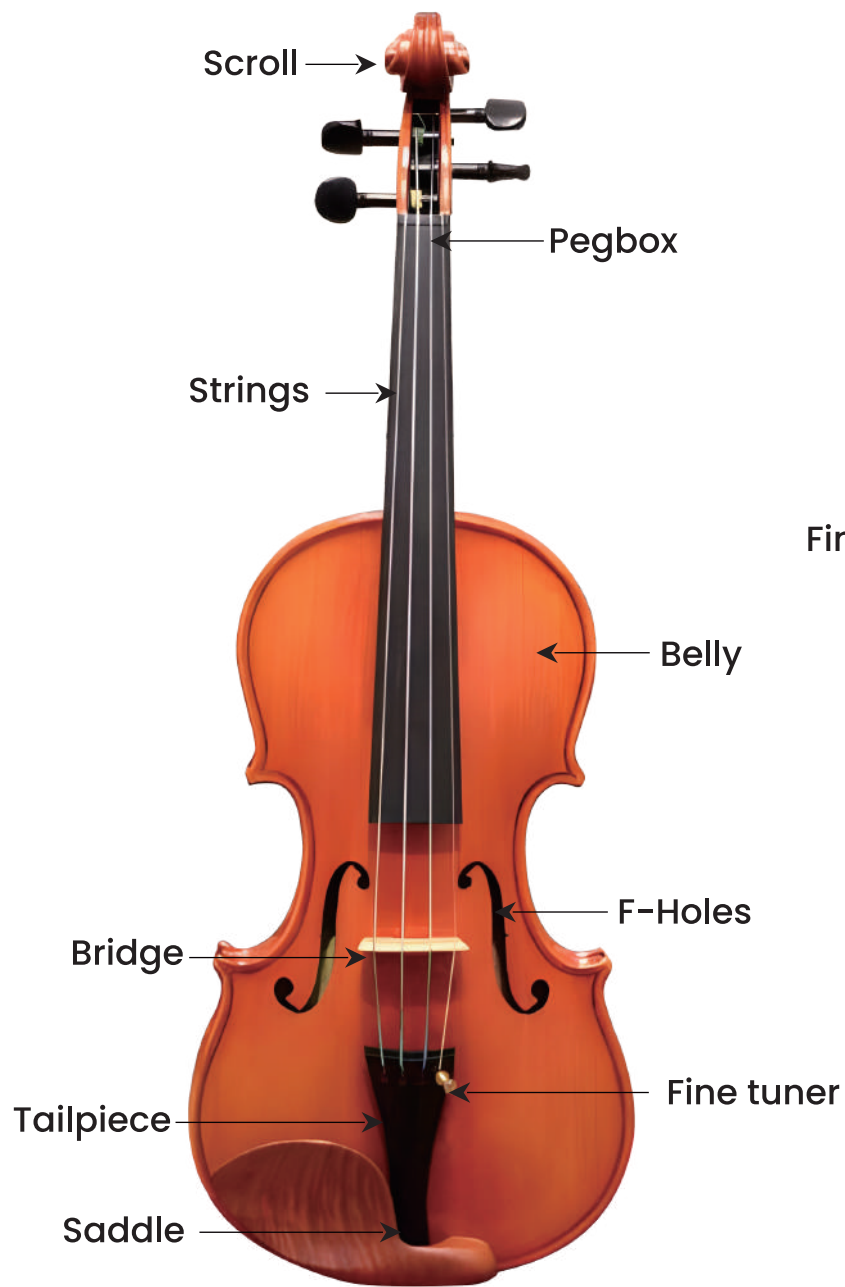
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Fesley Violin manual

First-time players will achieve the best results by bringing the violin to a music teacher to assist with the initial assembly.



INITIAL ASSEMBLY.

Please read through the manual below to familiarize yourself with your new instrument. If damaged goods are found, the wrong item was received, or an exchange or refund is required, please email your seller immediately.

GETTING STARTED

You must assemble and tune your new violin prior to playing. If you have a violin instructor we recommend you seek him/her to assist you with assembling, cleaning, and tuning your instrument for the first time.

If you cannot wait, follow these steps:





01 BRIDGE

The bridge is preset before we ship out the violin, however, since it is not permanently glued on, and it's held down by the tension of the strings only, it might come out or misalign during shipment. If that happens, please reinsert the bridge into the proper position. Keep in mind that not all players have the same size hands and fingers. Some violins come with the bridge not set at the correct height for the player and need to be adjusted. If this is the case then a professional luthier should adjust the bridge to get it comfortable to play.

02 STRINGS

Gradually tighten each string in the sequence of G-D-A-E. The reason for starting from the G string is to prevent damaging the thinner E and A strings. Tighten only 1-2 notes higher on one string at a time. Then tighten the next. Do not tighten one string all the way to the desired pitch while leaving the other strings very loose. This will create unequal pressure on the bridge causing it to fall.

03 PEGS

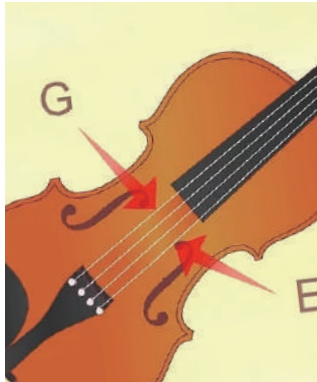
The pegs can shrink or expand due to the temperature and humidity changes. When the peg shrinks, it will not be the peg hole as well as they were originally made. It will leave a little gap between the peg and the peg hole. This is why the strings slip. Simply apply the rosin powder or peg drop oil (which you can get from the retail store) on the pegs and peg hole. This will fill the little gap in between and increase the friction.

04 BOW

Floss the bow with Rosin for at least 5-10 minutes until you see the white powders come out from the horse's hair before it can make a sound.

05 SOUND POST

It is not in a fixed position but is held in place by being custom to match the curvature of your instrument. During shipping, it is possible for the sound post to come loose or dislodge itself. If this happens, please contact us to assist you by e-mail or phone call "



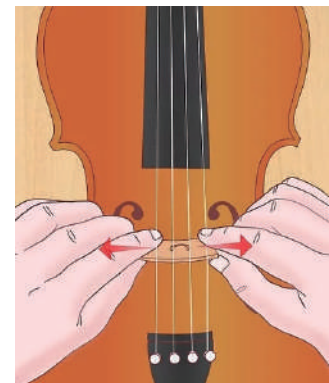
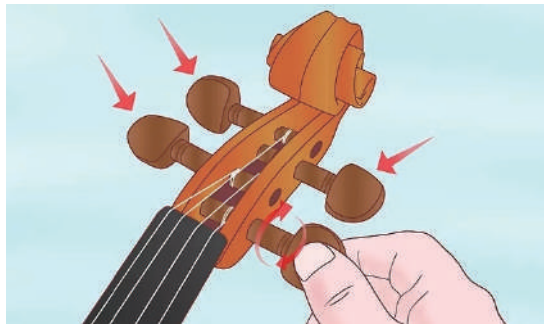
Identify the E-string and G-string side.

The violin bridge is a small piece of wood. The bottom of the bridge is usually a straight line, while the top is arched slightly. When you're examining your bridge, you'll notice one side of the arch is slightly higher than the other. The lower side is the E-string side, and the taller side is the G-string side. When you put the bridge in place, make sure the E-string and the G-string are in the right place.

If you still don't know how to identify the strings, turn the violin's head facing your body, the G-string will be the string farthest to the left. The E-string will be the farthest to the right.

Loosen the strings slightly.

To avoid snapping a string while placing the bridge, loosen the strings slightly. You can loosen violin strings by turning the tuning knobs on the end of the violin. The strings should be loose enough that you can easily pull them up and down, allowing them to be lifted up enough to slip the bridge under the strings.

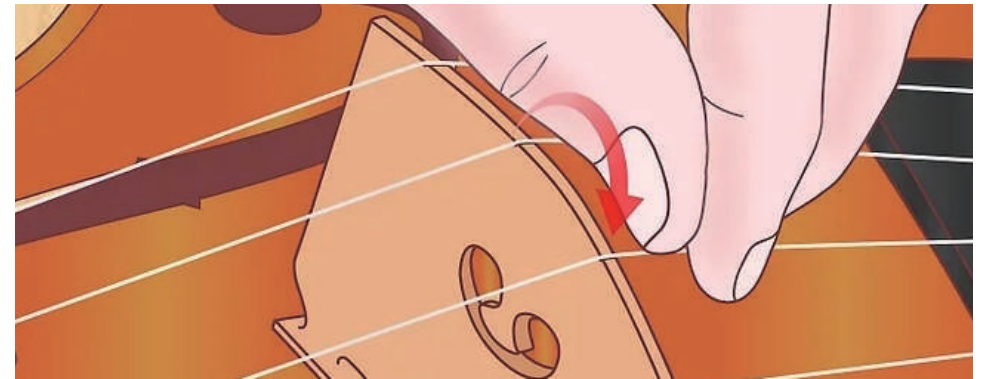


Place the bridge between the F-holes.

The F-holes are two F-shaped holes found near the end of the violin's head. When you slide the bridge under the strings, make sure it's between the two F-holes. The bridge should be placed at roughly the midway point of the F-holes. Imagine you're drawing a line from one F-hole to the next, starting at the small horizontal line running through one F-hole and stretching out to meet the small horizontal line running through the other F-hole. This imaginary line should run through the violin bridge.

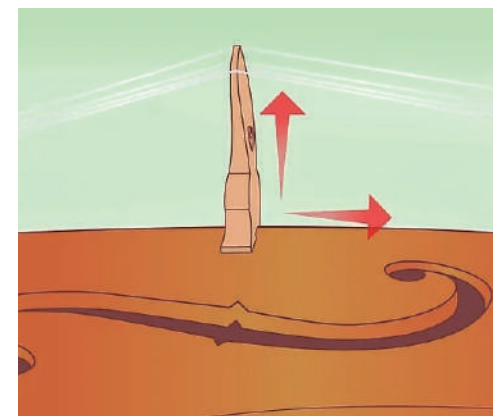
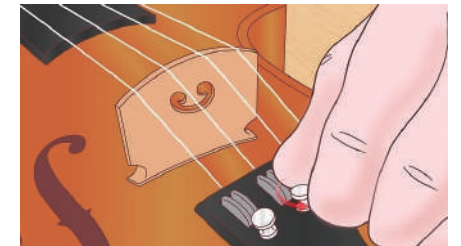
Put the violin strings in the knobs of the bridge.

The violin bridge has four small knobs running across the top. The four violin strings fit into these knobs, keeping the bridge and the strings in place. Gently feed the violin string into the knobs on the bridge one by one.



Tighten the strings.

Now you can retighten your strings to keep the knob in place. Gently turn each knob on the bottom of the violin. It's a good idea to use one hand to hold the bridge in place while tightening the strings, to prevent it from falling over. Tighten the strings until they are secure enough to keep the bridge in place while still having a very slight amount of slack.



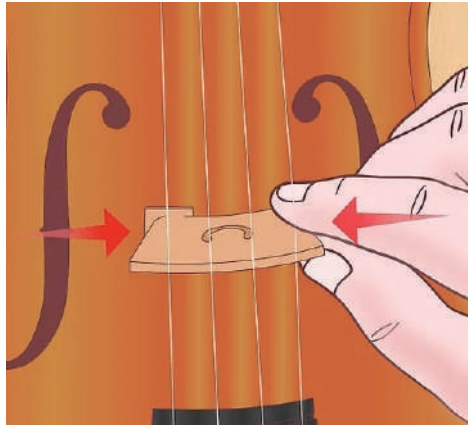
Make sure the bridge is standing at a 90-degree angle.

Once you've placed your bridge, you'll want to check to make sure its placement is correct. Lay your violin down on a flat surface. Get down to the violin's level. The side of the bridge facing the violin's tailpiece should stand at roughly 90 degrees. The other side of the bridge should be sloped forward slightly. If the bridge is not forming a 90-degree angle, you may have put it backward. So that you'll have to remove the bridge and start over.

Check to make sure the bridge is in the center of the violin.

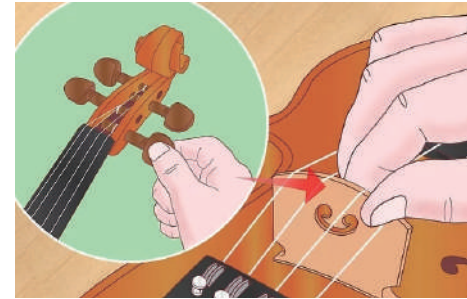
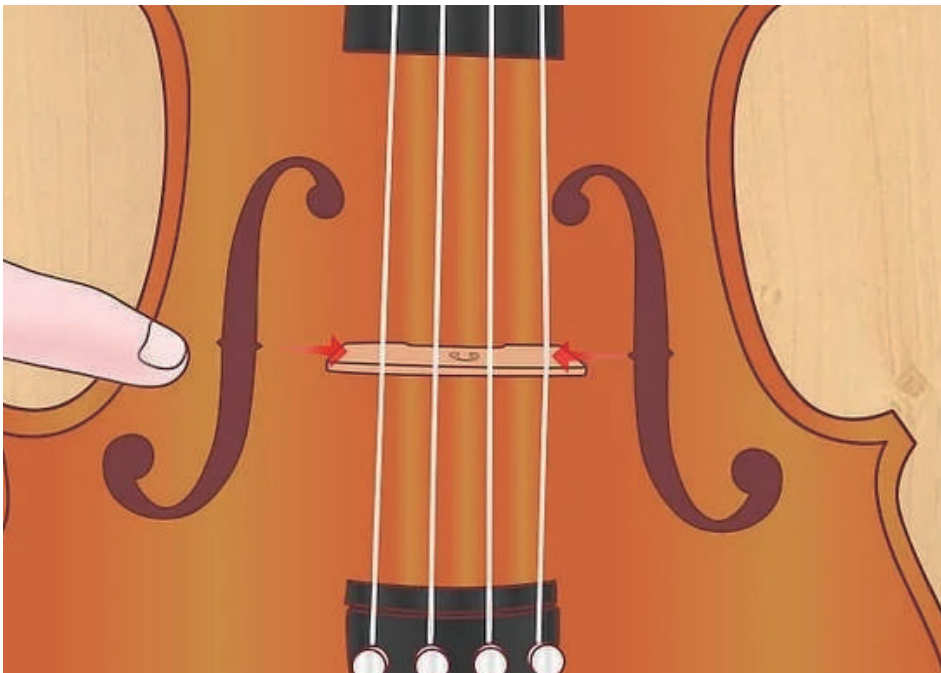
Your bridge should be in the center of the violin. It should not be too far to the left or right. If your bridge is leaning to the right or the left, gently push it until it's in the center of the violin.

You can simply eyeball to see if the bridge is in the center by glancing at the violin from a bird's eye angle. If you want to be extra sure the bridge is positioned correctly, however, you can use a ruler or measuring tape to measure the length of each end of the bridge to the end of the violin. The measurements should be roughly equal



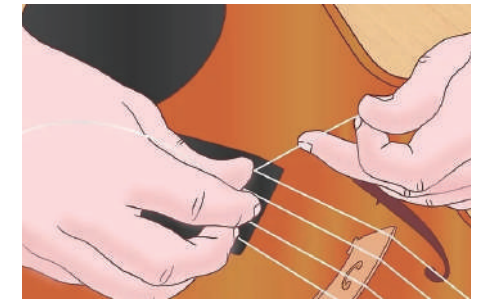
Make sure the bridge falls roughly in the middle of the f-holes.

The bridge should be between the f-holes, roughly falling between the middle of each hole. The bridge may have slipped slightly while you were tightening the strings, so once again check. Make sure you can draw an imaginary line through the center of each f-hole that runs through the bridge. If the bridge has moved, gently slide it up or down until it's in the right place.



Hold the bridge when tuning.

Bridges often fall out of place during tuning. To prevent this from happening, make sure you hold your bridge in place with one hand when tuning.



Replace strings individually.

On occasion, you will need to replace the strings of your violin as they break and wear down over time. In this case, make sure to replace strings individually.

Removing more than one string at once can cause the bridge to fall out of place

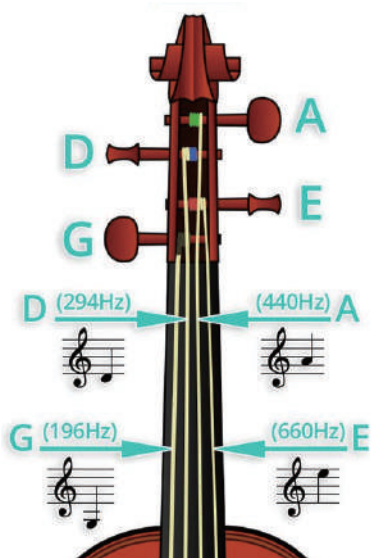
Pick an electric tuner that listens for the note if you're a beginner.

With this type of tuner, you play a string, and then the tuner tells you whether you are sharp or flat. This type works well if you don't have a very good ear yet, as it does the hard listening for you.

You can find these types of tuners online or at music stores.

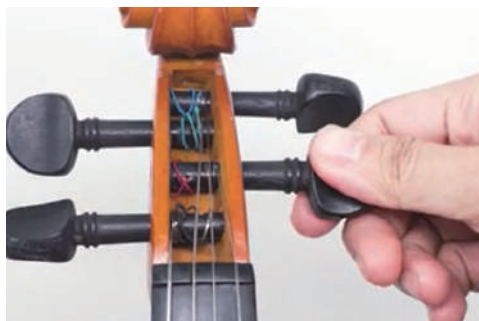
In addition, you'll find many smartphone apps that will act as tuners. Most of these cost a little money, but they are generally cheaper than a physical tuner. Try Tunable, ClearTune, or insTuner, to name a few.





Find the right peg for the string.

The pegs are the knobs on the far end of the violin. If you're holding the violin facing you with the pegs at the top, the right top is the "A" string, the right bottom is the "E" string, the left top is the "D" string, and the left bottom is the "G" string.



Turn the tuner on.

The tuner should have an on/off switch, as most of the time, they won't just stay on. The digital screen should show text and a tuning dial when you turn it on.

Pluck a note on the "A" string.

Use your fingers to pick at the string, striking a note. The tuner dial will move up and down to show you where the note is. Make sure the note says "A" in the corner when you pluck the string. If it doesn't, you'll need to make a lot of adjustments. Remember, the "A" string is the second smallest string.

If it doesn't say "A," figure out if the note it does say is above or below "A," and adjust up or down with the pegs. Turn the pegs to make larger adjustments. Find the corresponding peg for the string. For the "A" string, it's the one that's at the top right if you're holding the violin facing you with the pegs at the top. Move clockwise to make it higher or counterclockwise to make the note lower. Make small moves, less than 0.25 inches (0.64 cm) at a time to adjust the pitch. Keep moving the peg slightly until the dial hits the middle of the tuner. To find the correct peg, follow the string up to the peg it's attached to.



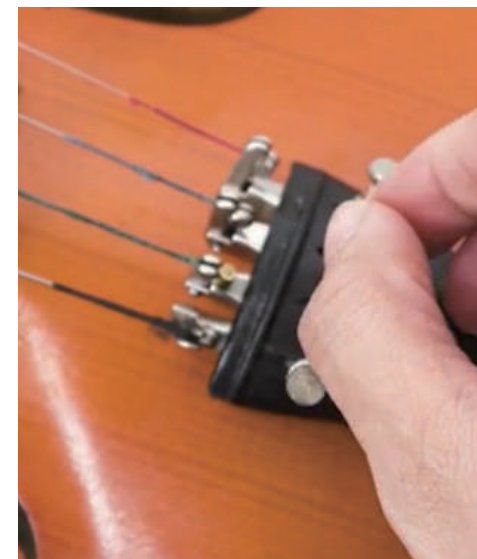
Use the fine tuner to adjust the notes if it needs small adjustments.

Twist the fine tuner that corresponds to the appropriate string to the right (clockwise) to increase the pitch. Turn it counterclockwise to make the pitch go lower. Keep plucking as you go, watching the screen to see if you hit the center point of the dial. Match the note of the string with the note on the tuner.

You may only have a fine tuner on the "E" string or the "E" and "A" strings. If you do, just adjust the other strings at the pegs instead.

The fine tuners are the small "screws" on the tailpiece of the violin, which is where the strings end near the chin piece.

If you turn the screw until it won't go anymore and the violin still isn't in tune, turn it back until it's loose again and use the pegs instead.



Turn the peg with your finger and thumb to make major adjustments.

Grasp the peg between your pointer finger and thumb. Turn it clockwise to make the string go higher or counterclockwise to make the string go lower. Try to match the note you just heard by running the bow across the corresponding string. Play the note on the tuner or computer again if you need to.





Make sure the note matches the tuner.

When the note matches, it will say the name of the note in the corner. The dial will hit the center of the note, which means it's not sharp or flat but right on the key. Once it does, you've tuned the note.

Repeat the process for each string.

Remember that the strings are "G," "D," "A," and "E," starting from the lowest and going to the highest. The lowest string will always be the biggest string.



How to Tune a Violin Using Its Pegs

On the violin, there are both pegs and new tuners. The pegs are used for when your instrument is really out of tune and the new tuners are used for when it's just slightly out of tune.

On the violin, there are four strings. Starting with the thickest string, they are called G, D, A, and E.

When learning how to tune a violin, always start with the A string. In a sitting position with your violin upright on your knee, use your left hand to pluck the string and use your right hand to turn the peg. Pluck the string as you turn your peg to the right to make it tighter and look at your tuner to see how close to the middle dial it is. When it's right in the center, bring your left hand up to the scroll and support it as you press the peg firmly into the hole to make it stay exactly in that spot, being careful not to let it move. If the peg turns even a hair while you're pressing in, it can make the string go out of tune. The real trick here is to press the peg into the hole it sits in firmly, and sometimes you will have to use all of your strength to make it stay where you positioned it.

If you can't get the string perfectly in tune, that's okay. Just get it as close as you can. For the rest of the pegs, you'll use the same process, except when you go to tune the G and the D strings you'll switch hands and use your left hand to turn your right hand to pluck and support.



Ways to Improve Your Intonation

Intonation is a lifelong challenge for string players – which is not surprising since perfect intonation is mathematically impossible. You can go from one note to another via a different series of perfect intervals and end up with slightly different frequencies.

1. Get comfortable: It is important for you to get physically comfortable with your instrument. You may have perfectly good ears but play out of tune because of a bad physical relationship with your instrument. Tension resulting from poor practice can result in inaccurate shifts, and even in an inability to hear yourself objectively when playing.
2. Record yourself: This can be painful, but also enlightening. It helps to record yourself with decent equipment so that you don't sound bad merely because of the quality of the recording itself. For violin tone, stereo makes a big difference.
3. Practise slowly: It takes time to hear pitch precisely, so practicing fast too early while learning a piece will train fingers to fall imprecisely and will dull objective listening.
4. Delay vibrato: Never use vibrato until you have a clear idea of pitch. While learning a piece try playing it entirely without vibrato, and then with a very small, centered vibrato, until the pitch relationships jell.
5. Practise scales and arpeggios accompanied by a drone: There is a simple note-generating program on the Internet that you can use for this purpose.
6. Play solo Bach: In addition to all their other virtues, Bach's sonatas and partitas for violin and his cello suites are excellent intonation studies. Every issue of melodic versus harmonic intonation relative to the open strings arises, forcing the player to decide consciously on a philosophy of intonation.
7. Play duets
8. Play chamber music

