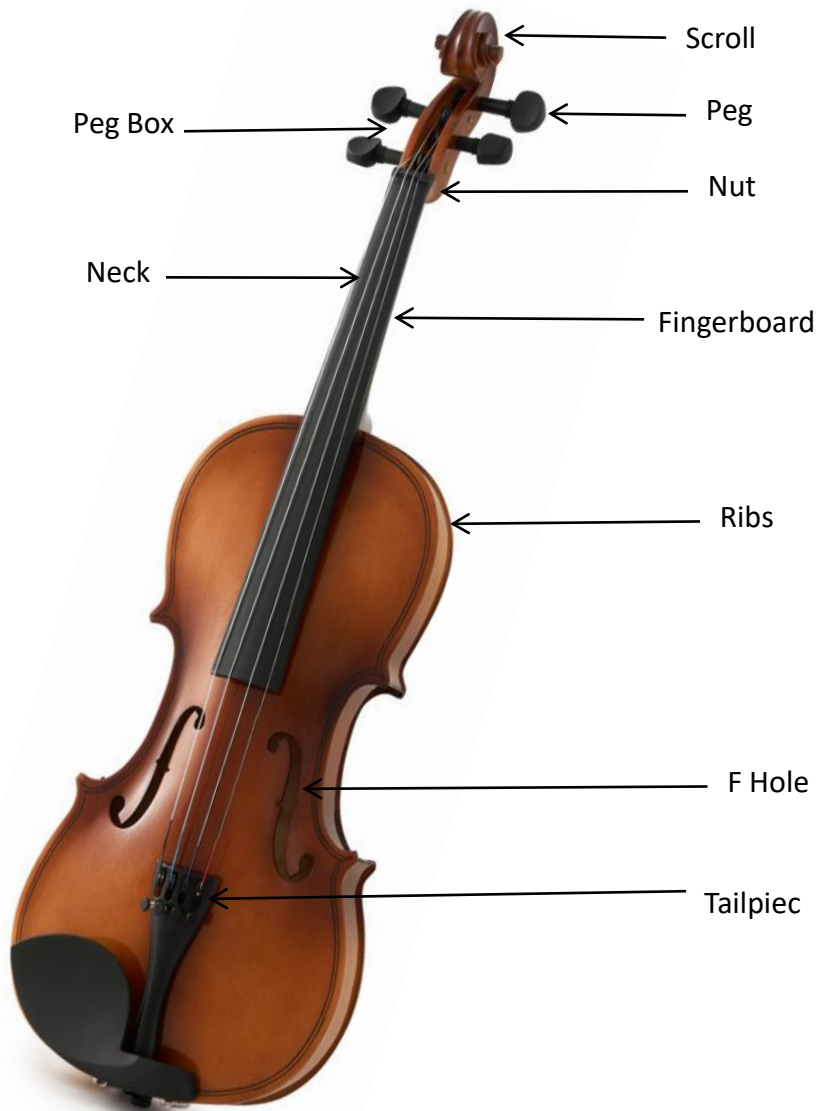


Essential Beginners Guide.....

Violin



Setting Up Your Instrument

Once you have checked the contents and have become familiar with each part, it is time to prepare the violin for playing. Follow these simple steps to ensure your instrument is set up correctly.

1.1 Setting The Bridge

It is very important that the bridge is set correctly on the violin. Before you put the bridge in place, check that the strings have enough slack for the bridge to fit upright underneath them without risk of breaking. The bridge is asymmetric and should be placed in-between the 'f' holes on the violin so that the right side of the bridge is lower when looking at the violin straight on. See Fig 1.1 to make sure that you have set the bridge the correct way round.



Bridge



Fig 1.1

1.2 Preparing The Bow

The bow's hair will be slackened to begin with. To tighten it, turn the end screw. Be sure not to over-tighten it. You should be able to easily run your little finger between the hair and the stick. Rosin will need to be applied to the bow before use, in order that it may grip the strings of the violin. For first time use run the rosin up and down the bow hair for 10 minutes being careful not to touch the hair with your fingers as this will cause it to lose grip. Once you have applied the rosin for the duration the first time, you will need to continue to apply before every use for 15-30 seconds.



Bow



Rosin

Setting Up Your Instrument

1.3 Tuning The Violin

Tuning the violin using the pegs and fine tuners will require a tuning device. Tuning is usually done by first tuning the A String, this being the most common note for tuning in orchestras. Each string needs to be tuned by plucking the string until the sound matches the note produced by the tuner. Once tuned correctly, the tuning pegs will need to be pushed firmly in to ensure the strings stay in tune. Tuning regularly is essential for keeping your violin tuned.



Tuner



Maintenance and Care

Proper maintenance can effectively prolong the service life of the violin and maintain its good sound quality. Please follow the following maintenance guidelines:

- **Cleaning After Playing:** After each playing, use a soft dry cloth to wipe off the rosin residue, sweat, and dust on the violin body, strings, and fingerboard. Avoid using water or chemical cleaning agents, as they may damage the paint and wood.
- **String Maintenance:** Regularly check the strings for wear, rust, or breakage. If the strings are severely worn or the sound becomes dull, replace them in time. When replacing strings, replace them one by one to avoid the bridge from tilting or the sound post from shifting due to sudden loss of tension.
- **Humidity and Temperature Control:** The violin is sensitive to changes in humidity and temperature. Avoid placing it in a damp, dry, hot, or cold environment (such as near a heater, air conditioner, or window). The ideal storage environment is 40%-60% humidity and 15-25 ° C. In dry environments, a humidifier can be used; in damp environments, a dehumidifier or moisture-absorbing bag can be placed in the violin case.