

# VIOLA TIPS

courtesy of  **ELLIS MUSIC**

## INSTRUMENT SIZING

▶ String instruments come in fractional sizes to accommodate players of all sizes. For comfort and to avoid bad habits, be sure to choose the right size instrument for your body. Your music teacher should be able to help, or refer to online resources at [EllisMusic.com](http://EllisMusic.com).

▶ Remember to move up in size as you grow! Most people choose to rent their instrument until they are ready to purchase a full-size instrument.

## CARE & MAINTENANCE

▶ Turn the bow's adjustment button to the right (clockwise) to tighten the bow hair. Avoid overtightening, which can damage the bow.

▶ Loosen the bow at the end of each playing session by turning the adjustment button to the left (counter-clockwise).

▶ Handle the instrument with care.

▶ Close your instrument case after taking the instrument out to avoid attracting dust or pet hair.

▶ When using the tuning pegs, push in as you turn them to keep the pegs from loosening.

▶ If your instrument has fine tuners, use them for small adjustments only.

▶ Wipe the instrument with a dry cloth after playing to remove any rosin dust and fingerprints.

▶ Store the instrument in its case when not in use. Setting the instrument on a chair or on the floor is discouraged.

▶ Avoid extreme temperatures (both hot and cold), as well as rapid changes in temperature, which can cause the wood of the instrument to crack.

▶ The ideal humidity level for a string instrument is 40-60%.

Consider using a case humidifier or a home humidifier/dehumidifier as necessary to keep your instrument happy.

▶ Strings wear out over time. Replace them when they break (or before). For a consistent sound, be sure to use the same type of strings.

▶ Send the instrument to the Ellis Music if it needs repairs.

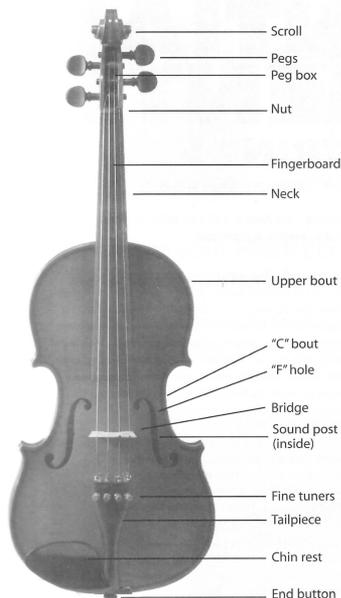


IMAGE SOURCE: *Essential Elements for Strings*. Used with permission from Hal Leonard Corp.



## HELPFUL ITEMS TO HAVE

- Rosin
- Shoulder rest
- Polishing cloth
- Humidifier



**Questions?**  
**Contact Ellis Music**  
**802-234-6400**  
**[www.ellismusic.com](http://www.ellismusic.com)**