

Instructions Manual

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First time players will achieve the best results by bringing the violin to a music teacher to assist with the 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, an exchange or refund in required, please email your seller immediately.



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Getting Started

You must assemble and tune your new violin prior to playing. If you have a violin instructor we recommend you see him/her to assist you with assembling, cleaning, and tuning your instrument for the first time. If you cannot wait, follow these steps:





- 1. 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 off or misalign during shipment. If that happen, please reinsert the bridge into 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.
- **2. STRINGS:** Gradually tighten each string in the sequence of **G-D-A-E**. The reason for starting from 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 desire pitch while leaving the other strings very loose. This will create unequal pressure on the bridge causing it to fall.



3. PEGS: The pegs can be shrink or expand due to the temperature and humidity changes. When the peg shrink, it will not fit the peg hole as well as they were originally made. It will leave a little gap between the peg and 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.



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

How to Tune Your Violin

How to Tune a Violin with a Tuner

1. Switch the tuner ON.

- 2. Pluck the violin's G string.
- 3. Watch the gauge on the tuner, where you see a little needle moving around. The needle registers the pitch and tells you if your note is too low or too high. The tuner may also have a green light, to tell you when you're on the best pitch.
- 4. Make the adjustments to the violin string using the fine tuners (tighten if the note is too low, or loosen if it's too high).
- 5. Pluck the string again. The tuner keeps telling you how you're doing as you adjust, until the little needle of the tuner is on target.
- 6. When the needle stays in the center of the gauge bingo! Your violin is in tune.
- 7. Continue through the D, A, and E strings using Steps 3 through 6.

How to Tune a Violin Using Its Pegs

On the violin there are both pegs and fine tuners. The pegs are used for when your instrument is really out of tune and the fine 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 had 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 and your right hand to pluck and support.

Note: If you play a note that sounds too high, carefully bring your finger closer to the violin scroll until you hear the right note. If you come across a note that sounds too low, slide it closer to the violin bridge until it is in tune.

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 practising 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, centred vibrato, until the pitch relationships jell.
- 5. **Practise scales and arpeggios accompanied by a drone:** There is a simple note-generating programme 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

Questions? Comments?

We are here to help! Phone: (1) 718-535-1800 Email: support@pyleusa.com