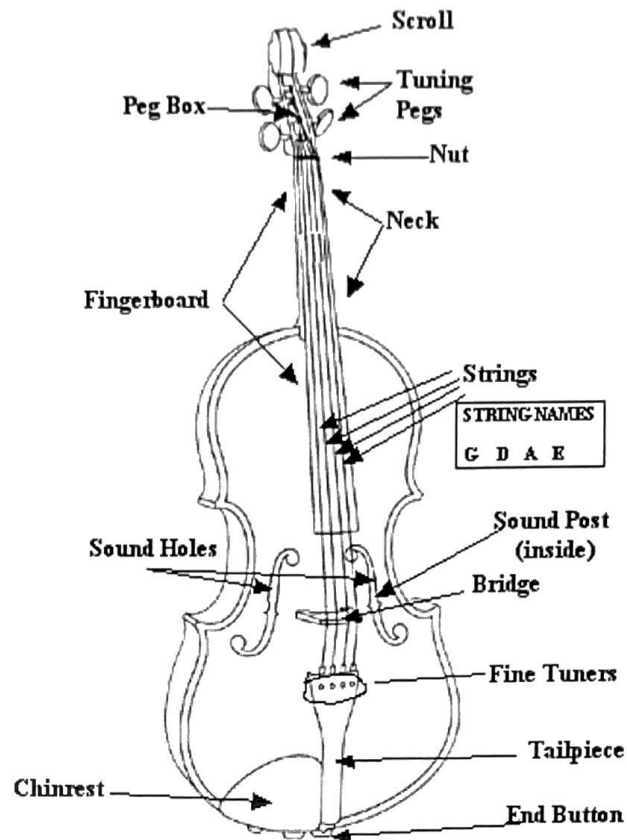


Parts of the Violin



Taking Care of Your Violin

Handle With Care! Your instrument is made of breakable wooden parts, so repairs can be expensive and time consuming.

Do not let anyone play your instrument unless it is your teacher or an experienced player you trust.

Never push down the case lid to make it close all the way. Before closing and latching it, check for things that may be out of place inside. (Be sure, for example, to remove your shoulder pad before putting your instrument away)

Keep your instrument clean! After playing, wipe off the rosin dust, smudges, fingerprints, etc., with a soft clean cloth. Always wash your hands before playing your instrument.

Do not let your instrument get too hot or too cold. If the temperature is uncomfortable for you, it is also bad for your instrument. For example, never leave your instrument in a car on a hot or cold day.

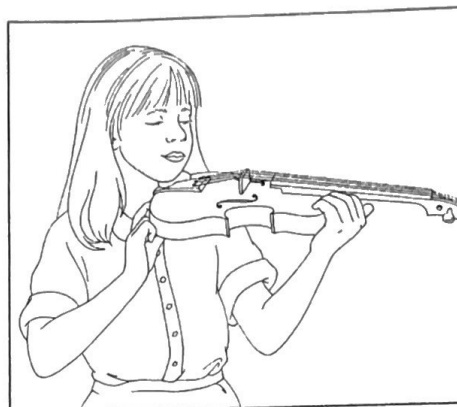
Allow only an experienced repair person to fix your instrument.

Make sure your bridge is lined up correctly and standing straight at all times. If it gets out of place, ask your teacher to fix it for you.

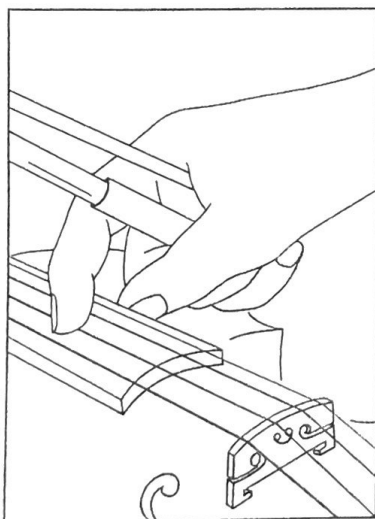
Lesson One: Getting Started

Holding your Violin

1. Make sure your shoulder rest is placed on on your violin correctly
2. Stand or sit “tall” keeping your head facing forward
3. Holding the violin parallel to the floor by the right upper shoulder and guiding it with your right hand, bring it toward you at an angle to your left
4. As you bring the violin toward you, place the end button close to your throat. Turn your head slightly to the left and tuck the edge (the bump) of your chin rest under your jaw to the left of your chin.
5. If your position is correct, you should feel relaxed and comfortable-able to easily move your head up and down and side to side. Your shoulder rest should allow you to hold your violin with no help from your hands.

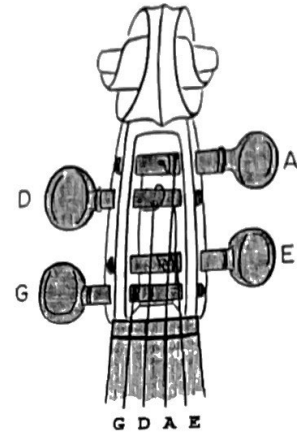


Pizzicato Position



1. Place the tip of your right thumb on the side of the fingerboard (near the corner)
2. Extend your first finger and pluck the string about 2-3 inches over the end of the fingerboard.
3. Keep your thumb anchored on the side of the fingerboard
4. For the best sound, make the string vibrate as much as possible.

The Violin has four open strings.
 They are named from lowest to highest,
 left to right, and thick to thin. This sentence
 will help you remember which order they are in:
Good Dogs Always Eat.



Let's Review how to hold the violin in playing position.

1. Stand or sit tall.
2. Instrument rests on left collar bone and shoulder
3. Jaw drops comfortably onto the chinrest (heavy head)
4. Left hand rests on the shoulder of the violin
5. Place left elbow directly beneath wrist/shoulder line



1. Rock House

DDDD DDDD DDDD DDDD

2 Rock Hound

AAAA AAAA AAAA AAAA

3. Rock Tango

DDAA DDAA AADD AADD

4. The Twist

GGDD GGDD AADD GGGG

5. Lazy Afternoon

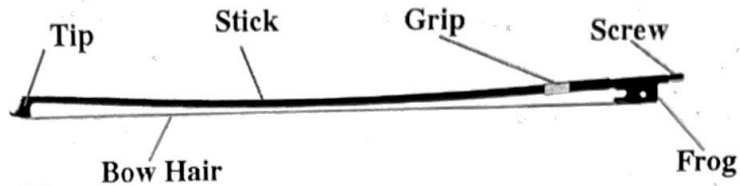
GGDD AADD GGDD AAGG

6. Skip to My Lou

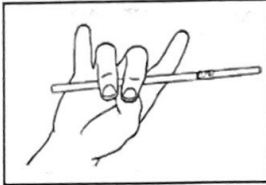
DDDD AAAA DDDD AADD

Lesson Four: Using the Bow

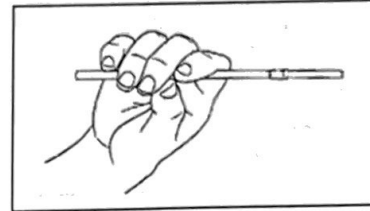
Parts of the bow



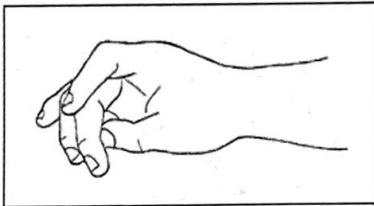
Steps to a good bow hold.....



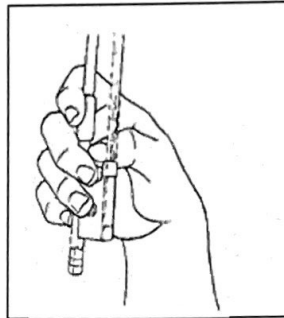
1. Middle fingers curve over the bow stick



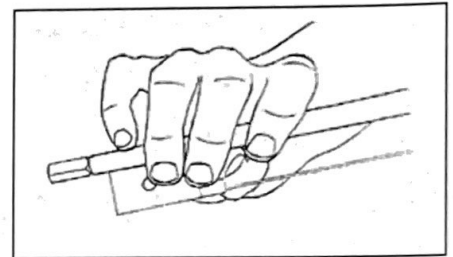
2. Thumb touches where frog meets the stick



3. Check for bow hand circle



4. Wrap your first finger around the stick.

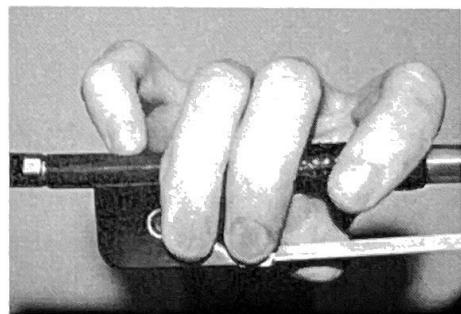
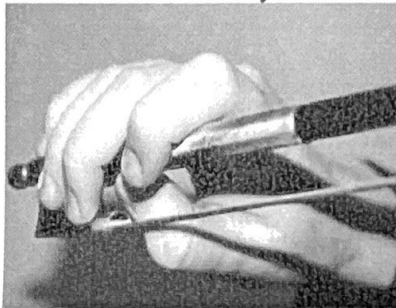


5. Little finger (pinkie) sits on top of the stick



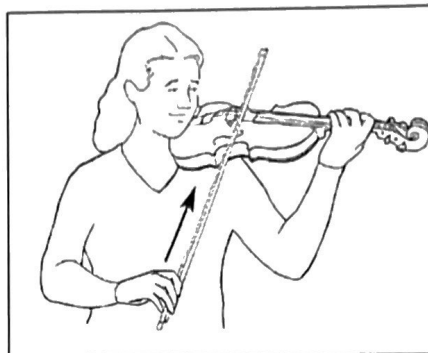
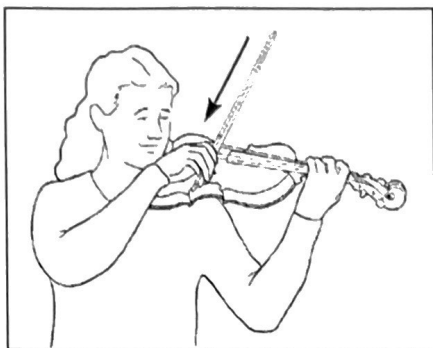
At first, play in this area of your bow

- Place your bow on the D string, halfway between the bridge and the fingerboard.
- Angle the bow so it is parallel with the bridge (your wrist should be bent upwards.)
- Pull the bow so it remains parallel to the bridge until you reach the tip. (You should need to bend your wrist the other way.)
- Move the bow and your wrist in the opposite direction



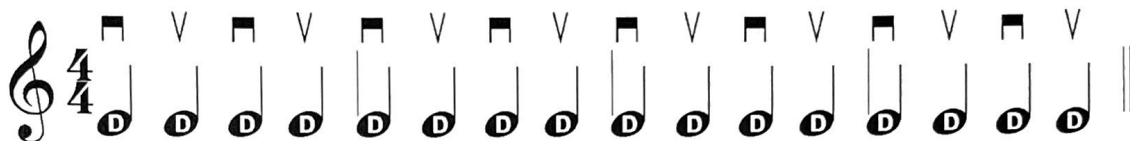
▮ = Down bow (Pull Bow from frog to tip)

∨ = Up Bow (Push Bow from tip to frog)

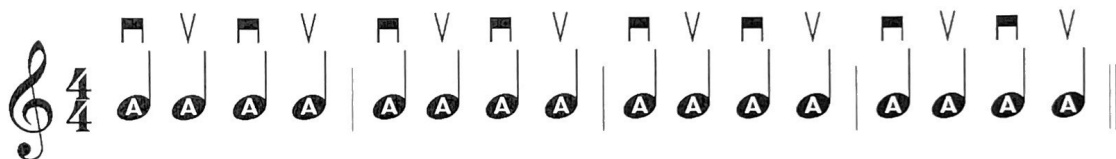


****The bow alternates back and forth unless marking is placed. Orchestra bows should all move together in the same direction.**

16. Bowing on “D”



17. Bowing on “A” - Tilt the bow to the A String



18. Alternate “DNA” - Tilt the bow from the D String to the A String

Changing Strings: Your elbow is responsible for changing strings.

