



Instruction for use and maintenance of your violin/viola/cello/double bass

The instrument

After playing, at least once a week, the resin-dust of your instrument should be wiped off with a dry dust cloth. In case you forget this often, the resin will stick to the lacquer of your instrument. Do not use water! Polish and a cleaning cloth, especially for the bowed instruments, can be obtained from Strijkinstrumentenshop.nl. Anything else can damage the lacquer. If something is broken or loose on your instrument, never try to glue it yourself. Tuning pegs of your instrument can sometimes loosen. Especially when it freezes for the first time or during very dry weather, one or more tuning pegs may get loose. When you try to fasten/turning the tuning peg, it must be strongly pushed inside simultaneously. If you have no experience with tuning an instrument, better ask your teacher. In case this often happens, please contact us via info@strijkinstrumentenshop.nl and ask to check the tuning pegs.

The bow

Before you start playing, you have to put the hairs under tension with the screwing knob until the horse-hair is reasonable playable. How tight? Between the hair and the stick, on the narrowest part, there should be about 1-1.5 cm space. You shall never wind your stick so tight that the bend that is in your stick is disappeared. This can even damage your bow! After playing you have to put the tension of the horse-hair your stick off again, about until there is only a small tension on the hair. Your instrument set also includes a block of resin, which takes care that the hairs become rough and playable. You need to apply resin on your bow about 1-2 times a week. Your music teacher will show you how that must be done. Try not to touch the hair of your stick. Better grab your bow at end where you normally hold it! When you touch the hair it may they become dirty, and then the resin will no longer be functional on that spot of the bow.

The Case

Be careful with your instrument case! When the bow is inserted in the case, make sure that the hair is not too loosely relaxed. As a result, many hairs may break. Mostly, the violin's shoulder rest will fit into the case, or otherwise keep it separately. If the violin case or cello bag is defective (zipper or hinge), please report via info@strijkinstrumentenshop.nl, so that the case/bag can be repaired or replaced. **Please always close the two zippers of the cello bag in the direction of the pin, whereby the pin shall stick out of the bag.**

Be careful with your instrument!!

What can damage you instrument and bow? See below list.

- ✓ **Sun:** If you accidentally leave your instrument in the sun, the wood can become so hot, that cracks in wood may appear. This can also happen if your instrument is on the hat shelf of the car, whereby the sun shining into the car;
- ✓ **Heating:** Also when you put your instrument too close to a heating element, this may damage your instrument;
- ✓ **Storage:** Never put your instrument on a chair. You will not be the first violinist/cellist to sit on his instrument....! Always put a cello on the side, but not on a hard floor like parquet or tiling. In all cases the pin of the cello shall be slide inside the cello. It is best to store your instrument in the case or bag if you finished playing. For both violins, violas and cellos, an instrument stand is also a good possibility to put the cello safely away.
- ✓ **Shoulder rest:** If the rubbers of your shoulder rest are damaged, the metal foot of the support can make ugly scratches on your violin or viola! New rubbers can be obtained via info@strijkinstrumentenshop.nl.
- ✓ **Tuning:** The instrument is always in tune at delivery. Tuning can be easily done with the fine tuners at the tail piece. When they are completely turned inside, they shall unwind almost completely and then provide tuning with the wooden tuning pegs. Note: Do not rotate the pegs too fast, as the string can break. The best is to first slightly unwind the tuning peg and then slowly up, until the correct tone is reached. The aforementioned can best be done by the music teacher or by us. Good luck with practicing!!