



INSTRUMENT CARE TIPS

HOLD THE INSTRUMENT BY THE NECK

- **Wipe** down the instrument with a soft cotton cloth after each use. Doing this after use is usually sufficient enough to keep it clean. Reserve a small corner of the cloth to wipe down where the bow touches the strings. Wiping off the strings after each use will keep rosin from building up and interfering with the instrument's resonance.
- **Do** keep your instrument and bow in its case when you're not playing it. Be careful not to expose your instrument to extreme heat or cold. Things like car trunks and/or heat vents and radiators are bad for instruments! Do not tighten the strings adjusters all the way down. The arm under tailpiece will scratch top of instrument. Do not put anything else in the case like music, pencils, etc.
- **Do** try to keep the instrument in a humidified room, if possible. Damp-its (internal humidifiers) are very useful in this situation- make sure they are well squeezed out before inserting; we don't want them to drip inside the instruments. Drier weather (especially as the weather gets cooler) will cause the wood to crack. Check the bridge to see if it is upright or tilted slightly towards the tailpiece.
- **Loosen** the bow (about 5 turns) to relieve tension when you're not playing with it- this will keep it from either losing its camber, or possibly warping. On the other hand, don't tighten it too much- your teacher will show you how tight it needs to be. Don't touch the bow hair with your fingers, as the natural oils from your skin will keep rosin from sticking to the hair. Wipe only the stick part with a soft cotton cloth before putting it away. Apply rosin to hair with long slow strokes.
- **Don't** put stickers on the instrument or case. The exception is, fingering tape on the fingerboard.
- **Finally;** inspect your instrument each day, if anything breaks or needs adjustment on your instrument; please bring it our attention as soon as possible.

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