

How to Change a Violin String

These instructions detail how to change a violin string. The intended audience is violin players and anyone attempting to change a violin string regardless of violin experience.

When Is It Time to Change a Violin String?

It is recommended to change strings every 9-12 months at a minimum. Additionally, it might be time to change your strings if the string is one of the following:

- The string is too thin
- The string is producing bad sound quality
- The string requires more pressure to make a sound than usual
- The string is dirty, grimy, or fraying

An old or worn-out string that needs to be replaced can cause problems such as the following:

- Wrist or shoulder injuries from increased pressure on the strings
- Strings flying off or breaking while playing
- The violin producing bad or sub-optimal sound quality

To avoid any injury and keep your violin in the best shape, it is important to recognize when it is time to change strings.

Required Items

1. Violin Strings

Ensure that the strings you have match the name of the string on the violin. For example, if the broken string is the far-left string, ensure that you purchase a “G” string as opposed to a “D” or “A” string.



Figure 1: The string names on a violin.¹

2. Tuner

The note the string plays depends on how tight the string is wound. Therefore, it is important to have a tuner to make sure the string is wound correctly. Either a phone app (like Pano Tuner or gStrings) or a traditional electric tuner will work.

3. Peg lubricant (*optional*)

Peg lubricant might be helpful for more easily sliding the new string into place. If you do not have peg lubricant, you can alternatively use standard blackboard chalk followed by a layer of soap or choose to not use a lubricant.

Process for Changing the String

Consider the violin diagram below for finding the parts of the violin.

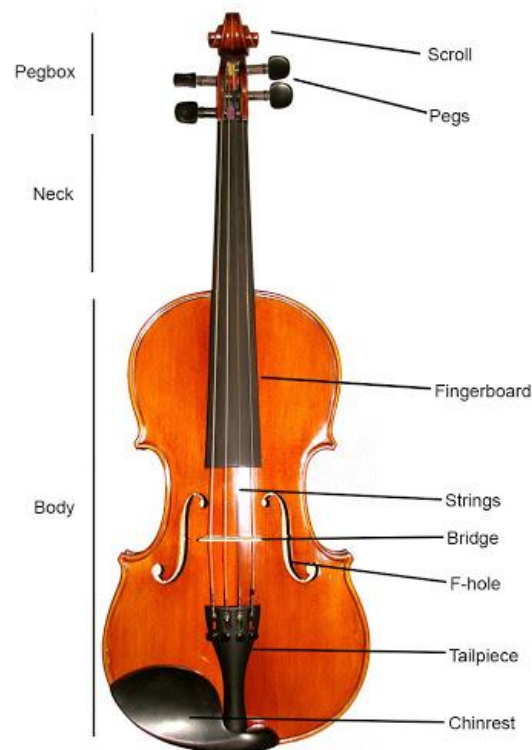


Figure 2: The parts of a violin.²

1. Locate the String's Peg

Find the worn-out string on the violin and follow the string up to the top of the violin. Each string is wound around a "peg" at the top of the violin; locate the peg the worn-out string is wound around.

2. Unwind the String

Ensure you are looking at the front of the violin. Carefully rotate the peg found in the previous step until the string is completely unwound. If the peg is on the left of the violin, rotate the peg towards you; if the peg is on the right, rotate the peg away from you.

3. Remove the String

Remove the string from the top near the peg and then follow the string down to the bottom of the violin at the tailpiece. Carefully remove from the tailpiece, ensuring not to scratch the wood of the violin with the sharp end.

4. Lubricate the Peg and Bridge (*optional*)

If you have peg lubricant, use a small amount on the worn surface of the peg. Then, using a sharp pencil or similar tool, place a small amount of lubricant on the bridge in the small nook where the string and bridge make contact.

5. Thread String into Peg

Locate again the peg corresponding to the string you are replacing. Look for a small hole drilled into the peg. Taking your new string, thread the end of the string (the end without a ball or loop end) into the peg hole.

6. Wind the String

With one hand on the peg end and the other holding the new string, begin winding the string onto the peg. If the peg is on the left, rotate the peg away from you; if the peg is on the right, rotate the peg towards you. Keep winding towards the outside of the violin until the string stays in place. Do not worry about the string being the wrong pitch, too loose, or too tight; we will address this later.

7. Thread Through the Bridge

Find the nook where the string is placed on top of the bridge. Place the newly wound string through this nook. This ensures the string is placed straight along the fingerboard.

8. Attach to Tailpiece

Attach the ball or loop end of the string to the attachment on the tailpiece.

9. Adjust the Pitch

Turn your tuner app or electric tuner to the note corresponding to the name of the string (for example, if you attached an “A” string, turn the tuner to an “A”). While pushing the peg into the violin, turn the peg with one hand while plucking the new string with the other hand to hear its pitch. Repeat turning the peg until the string is close to the correct pitch. At this point, if the

violin model has fine tuners (dials below the attachment on the tailpiece), adjust the fine tuners until the pitch matches the note from the tuner.

Congratulations! You have attached a new, shiny string to your violin, and you are ready to play.

Works Cited

1. Josh. (2021, March 03). The names of the strings on the violin - violin string names. Retrieved March 07, 2021, from <https://musilesson.com/names-strings-violin/>
2. Instrument set ups & accessories. (n.d.). Retrieved March 07, 2021, from <https://violinrentaldirect.com/instruments>