



The Violin & Music Theory

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The Parts of a Violin

BODY

The violin body is constructed from several wood cutouts that are then glued together and carved to create the violin frame

- **neck:** the long part of the violin, you can find the fingerboard here
- **scroll:** found at the end of the neck, the scroll tops off the violin with a carved swirl design
- **'f' holes:** holes in the front of the violin for the purpose of emitting sound
- **sound post:** placed *inside* the violin directly under the bridge and between the 'f' holes that protrudes sound out
- **chin rest:** found on the front, bottom, left side of the violin where the violinist places their chin when playing.

STRINGS

- **the strings:** 4 violin strings. Starting from the farthest left to right: G1, D2, A2, E3.
- **steel strings:** steel strings are suitable for beginners, as they are easier to tune, and have a better bow response.
- **nylon strings:** nylon strings are often used by professionals as they offer a richer sound and are much softer than steel strings.
- **the bridge:** the bridge is placed in the front of the violin between the 'f' holes, and its job is to hold the strings

BOW

- **frog:** the bottom metal part of the bow where the violinist holds it from. Also the location of the screw where you can tighten and loosen the bow hair
- **bow hair:** bow hair is made from horse tail hair that is cleaned, bleached and then stretched between the frog and tip of the bow.
- **rosin:** made from solidified pine or plant resin. Resin is consistently run through the bow hair which is necessary for producing a sound when making contact with the strings.

Violin Brands & Prices

Violin brands and prices vary greatly depending on your level of playing and quality of violin you are looking for.

Beginner Violin

Mendini: Mendini is a popular brand of very affordable string instruments for beginners. You can find Mendini violins for less than \$100 and will usually come in an already established kit: case, strings, bow, rosin, shoulder rest, etc.

- Mendini violins are usually very low quality and may break after some usage. They are really only ideal to learn on.

Intermediate Violins

- **Eastman Strings:** Intermediate Violins for student, performance, and professional players. Better quality than Mendini. Range from \$600-\$3000.

- **Yamaha:** Overall well-rounded quality violins also ranging from beginner to more professional. Similar price ranges to Eastmen

Professional Violins

- **Lazzaro Zucchi**

- **Stradivarius**

Used by top violin soloists

Circle of Fifths

The circle of fifths is the most basic and foundation form of music theory. The circle represents all major key signatures in a clockwise order descending in fifth steps. Each key signature (position in the circle) has a certain number of flats and sharps. The inner circle contains each major key's *sister* minor key.

This is very helpful when transposing music or adding improvisational parts to music in order to retain the music's tone.