

Ready? Set? Play!

Sound advice for getting started on your instrument

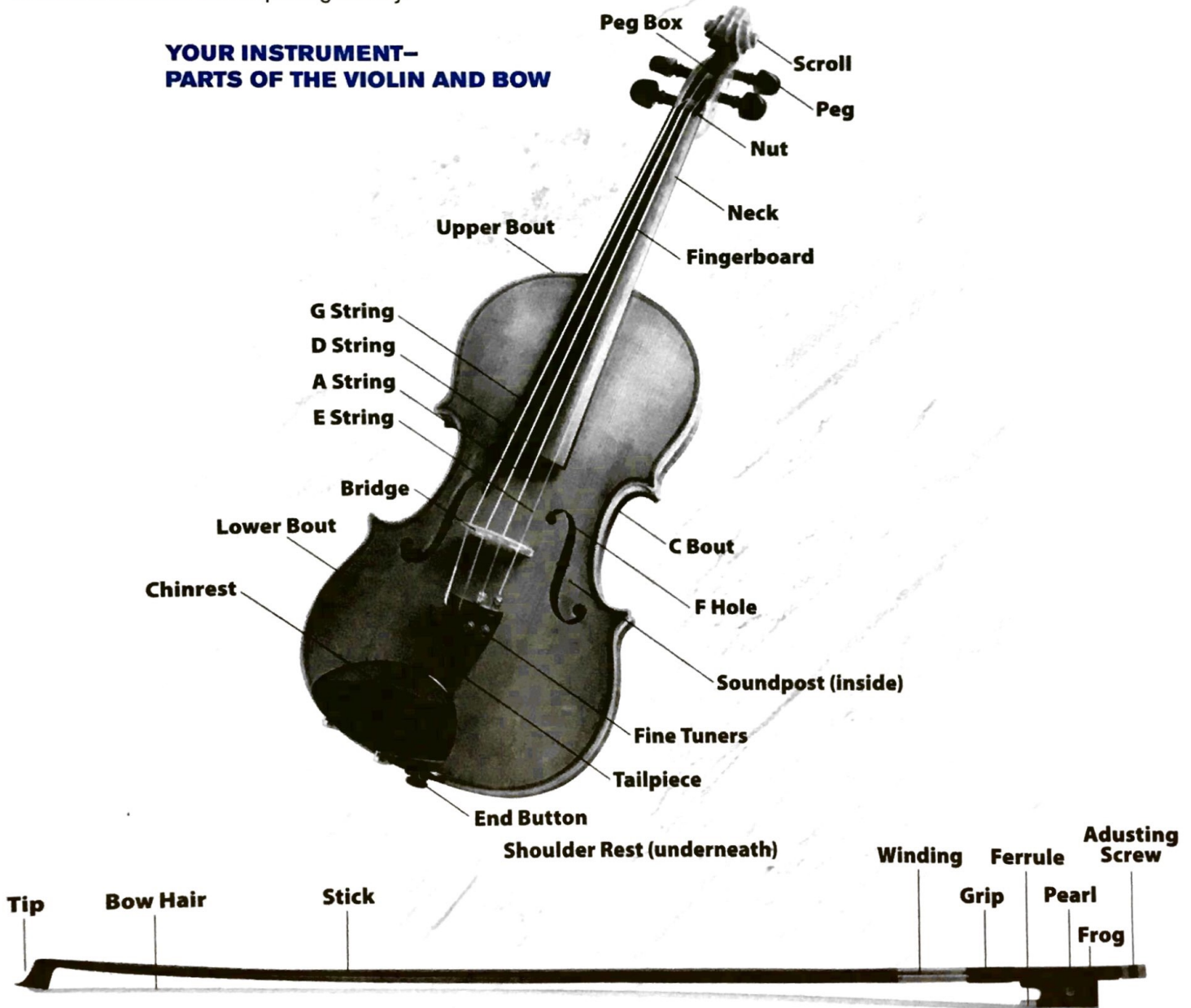
INSTRUMENT CARE

1. String instruments are made of wood and are fragile. Be careful with your instrument.
2. Your teacher will show you how to remove the instrument from the case and return it, and how to handle it carefully.
3. Your teacher will show you how to apply rosin to your bow and how to tighten and loosen the hair.
4. Keep your instrument clean by wiping the rosin dust off with a soft cloth.
5. Remove the shoulder rest before putting your instrument into the case.
6. Loosen the bow before putting it away.

INSTRUMENT HISTORY

The earliest bowed string instruments were the *erhu* from China, the *rebab* from the Middle East, and the *esraj* from India. The instruments we know today as the violin family (violin, viola and cello) were developed in Europe in the 1500s. The string bass developed later. Some of the most famous string instrument makers, or luthiers, were Italian families such as the Amatis, Guarneris, and Stradivaris. Many of these instruments, made hundreds of years ago, are still played today. New developments in string instrument making are ongoing, but the basics have remained virtually unchanged for 500 years.

YOUR INSTRUMENT— PARTS OF THE VIOLIN AND BOW



The Staff
