

Fun stuff to upgrade your instrument - if you already own it!

Chinrests (violin/viola)

Most violin and viola players have probably never thought about trying a new chin rest. There are 5 different styles:

- The Flesch **Chinrest**. Named for Hungarian **violinist** Carl Flesch, this features a cupped **chinrest** centered over the tailpiece, much like Spohr's original.
- The Guarneri **Chinrest**
- The Dresden **Chinrest**
- The Kaufman **Chinrest**
- Morawetz **Chinrest**

Most of you have either a Dresden or Guarneri Chin rest on your instrument. Maybe think about trying a new one, or [even extending the height on the one you have!](#)

[Selecting a new \(or the right\) chin rest for you & your instrument](#)

[Violin Chin Rests!](#)

[Viola Chin Rest options - lots of them!](#)

BOWS

Chances are, you've never thought about the bow that came with your instrument. However, bows are interchangeable - kind of like putting new tires on your car.

Please do not buy a Glasser bow. They are made of cheap fiberglass, and are appropriate for young students. They are not appropriate for older students. Glasser has a recycling program for their bows because they know that they are disposable and cheaply made.

Please buy a wooden or fiberglass bow with quality hair. They will last longer and sound better.

[Here is an article discussing the differences between them](#)

[Violin Carbon Fiber Bow - Fiddlerman](#)

[Sandalwood Violin Bow - Fiddlerman](#)

[Ipe Wood Violin Bow - Fiddlerman](#)

[Viola - Full Size \(larger than 15"\) Carbon Fiber Viola Bow - Fiddlerman](#)

[Brazilwood Viola Bow \(Choose your size\)](#)

[Cello Carbon Fiber Bow](#)

[Cello - Hybrid Bow \(Carbon Fiber wrapped in Pernambuco\)](#)

If you just want to poke around and look at bows, you can always visit the site yourself.

<https://fiddlershop.com/collections/bows>

<https://www.sharmusic.com/Bows/>

<https://www.johnsonstring.com/>

(Johnson String - Carriage House Violins - is a local shop with lots of instruments, bows, and accessories. You can go visit them in person and try out different bows to see what you like!)

Cases

[Basic Violin Case](#)

[Next step up Violin Case](#)

[Pretty Good Violin Case!](#)

[Case Cover - if you want to keep your shaped case, but want some pockets and more protection](#)

[Basic Viola Case](#)

[Pretty Good Viola Case!](#)

[Padded Soft Cello Case](#)

[Hard Cello Case with Wheels](#)

[Cello case - somewhere in between the two price points, and this one, too](#)

(My feelings on these cases are mixed. I have had students with these cases, and their experiences vary depending on the player)

Strings

Strings range in price, but you do not need to put super expensive (or cheap!) strings on your instrument. Cheaper strings cut into the players fingers and have a very tinny sound (almost like a toy). Good strings help student quality instruments sound better, and are more comfortable to play.

I am going to link a few brands that I would suggest. Don't be afraid to mix and match brands! For example, I use Jargar on my bottom two strings (C & G on my cello), Obligato on my D string, and Helicore on my A string. I have also mixed it up in other ways, but that is my current set-up.

You can choose a medium gauge for your strings. If you have questions, please contact me!

Also, Southwest Strings tends to have the best prices and shipping deals on strings. I have purchased from Amazon before, but be careful that you're getting the actual brand and not a knock-off.

VIOLIN

[Dominant Violin Set](#)

[Helicore \(by D'Addario\) Violin Set](#)

[Violin - Thomastik Blue \(Bright & Clear Tone\)](#) [Thomastik Red \(Warm & Rich\)](#)

[Preludes - these are the strings I use at school, or when I have to change broken strings in class](#)

[Thomastik Spirocore](#)

VIOLA

[Helicore \(by D'Addario\) Viola Set](#)

[Dominant](#)

[ProArte \(by D'Addario\)](#)

[Preludes - these are the strings I use in class](#)

CELLO

[Thomastik Dominants](#)

[Preludes - these are the ones I use in class](#)

[Helicore by D'Addario](#)

[Jargar](#) (pronounced Yar-gar)

[ProArte](#)

Sheet Music/Song Books

VIOLIN

[Intermediate - Broadway Songs!](#)

[Violin - Disney Song Book](#)

[Easy \(Beginner\) Violin Christmas Song Book](#)

[Violin - 101 Christmas Songs](#)

[Violin - Easy Classical Pieces](#)