



Concert Series®

VIOLIN

FIRST ACT

IDEAL FOR SCHOOL MUSIC PROGRAMS™

CARE AND ASSEMBLY



INCLUDES:

4/4 Violin • Protective Carrying Case • Bow and Rosin
Care & Maintenance Manual and DVD

FIRST ACT CONCERT SERIES® VIOLIN

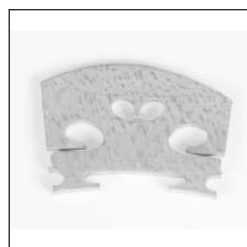
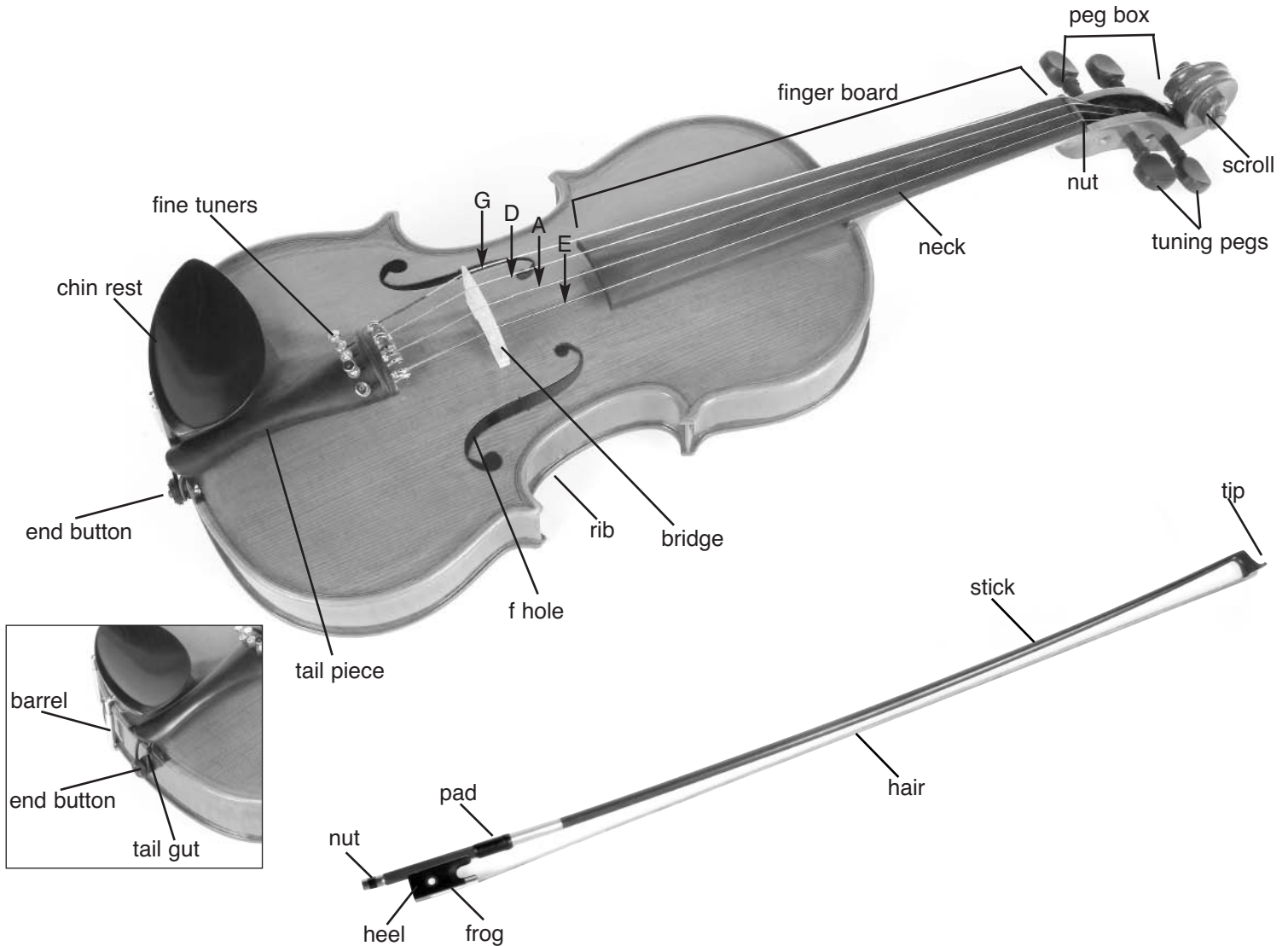
Congratulations and thank you for purchasing a First Act instrument.

Please keep this care and assembly manual for future reference, as it contains important information.

If you experience any problems with your instrument, rather than return it to the store, simply call the First Act Service Team, toll-free at 866-710-FAST (3278) or e-mail us at info@firstact.com.

Our experts can usually solve the problem quickly, and we're happy to assist you.

It's important to know the parts of your violin before you can learn to play.



bridge



chin rest wrench



rosin

UNPACK YOUR VIOLIN

1 Open the case with the exterior pocket facing up.

2 Carefully remove any paper, plastic and silica gel packets from around the instrument.

PREPARE YOUR VIOLIN FOR PLAYING

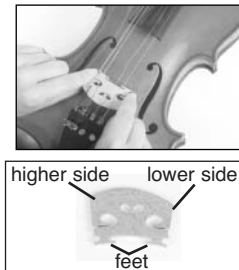
When you open the case for the first time, you will notice the strings of the violin have been loosened and the bridge has been removed to protect the instrument during shipping.

First time players will achieve the best results by bringing the violin to a music teacher to assist with the initial assembly.

RAISE THE BRIDGE

1 Leave your violin in the case, and gently untuck the strings from the sides so that they are resting on top of the fingerboard.

2 Find the lower side of the bridge. With the tailpiece near you and the scroll away from you, the lower side of the bridge should be on the right. Slide the bridge under the strings so that it is resting flat between the F holes.



3 With the feet touching the body, slowly raise the bridge until it is standing straight up.

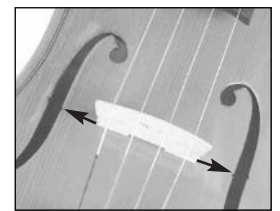


Important: If the bridge cannot be raised easily,

4 Find the four small notches on the top of the bridge and guide each string into the appropriate slot. Do the same with the notches on the nut of the neck.



5 Line up the bridge feet with the notches in the center of the f holes. Both feet should match up with these notches. The bridge will remain loose until your strings are tuned.



TUNE YOUR VIOLIN

1 It's best to sit when you tune your violin.

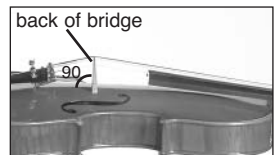
2 You can use a tuning fork, a pitch pipe, a piano, or an electronic tuner to tune your violin.

3 The strings, from low to high, should be tuned to G, D, A, and E.



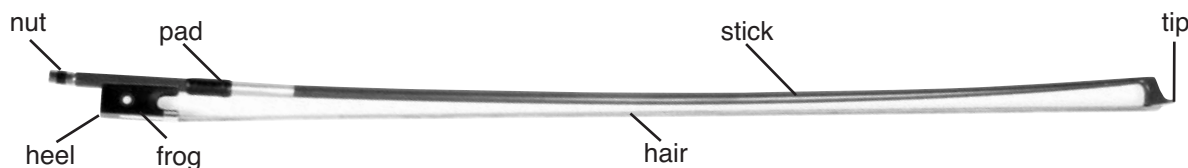
4 Turning the tuning pegs changes the pitch of the string. To turn the peg, pull it out very slightly and then turn it. When you turn the peg to tighten the string, the pitch becomes higher. When you turn the peg to loosen the string, the pitch becomes lower. To keep the peg in place, gently push it in after you turn it. Never force the pegs in or out. Use the fine tuners to make smaller adjustments to the tuning.

5 The bridge will likely move a bit as you tune, so be sure to check the bridge as you tune. Normally, the back of the bridge will be standing up straight, at a 90° angle. Sometimes the bridge will begin to tilt forward. If this happens, you can



6 Anytime you move the bridge, be sure to check your tuning again.

PREPARE YOUR BOW



- 1** The nut tightens the frog so that the hair becomes more taut.



Be careful to not overtighten your bow. There should be a slight bounce if you tap the hair against the strings. As a general guideline, you should be able to fit a pencil between the hair and the bow.



Do not touch the bow hair with your fingers. Even when your hands are clean, they have natural oils that can stick to the hair and make it impossible to hold rosin.

- 2** Rosin is what helps the bow hair grip the strings. Without rosin, no sound will be produced. Your bow had rosin applied at the factory. It is likely that additional rosin may be required after shipping to generate a proper sound.

- 3** A new cake of rosin must be primed before it is applied to the bow hair. You can roughen the rosin cake's surface with sandpaper, or use a key to scratch a crosshatch pattern.



- 4** Slowly draw the hair over the rosin cake from the frog to the tip of the bow. On a new bow, you may have to repeat this process for 5-10 minutes. Test the bow to determine if the rosin is adhering to the hair. Draw the bow over the strings, and if you start to hear a clear pitch, then it is ready.

- 5** If the bow is not generating a clear tone, try applying more rosin. Follow this process repeatedly until the bow produces a clear tone.

- 6** If you start to hear a scratchy tone, you may have applied too much rosin. If so, simply play until the rosin slowly wears off and a clear tone is heard. **Applying the proper amount of rosin to the bow is critical to achieving a good sound.**

HOLD YOUR VIOLIN

It's very important that you learn to hold the violin properly.

- 1 You can stand up or sit in an armless chair, whichever is most comfortable.

- 2 Holding the neck of the violin in your left hand, place the chin rest under your chin and rest the violin on your left shoulder.

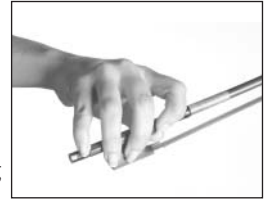


Many violinists find it more comfortable to use a shoulder rest. You can purchase one separately, or you can place a rolled towel on your collar bone.

- 3 The neck should rest between your thumb and index finger. Your palm should not be resting on the neck.



- 4 The bow should be held lightly in your right hand with the thumb and fingers. Make sure your little finger rests on top of the nut. Your index finger should be resting on top of the pad and is used to relieve and add tension to the bow strokes.

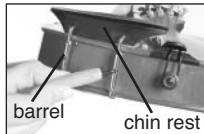


Remember, do not touch the bow hair with your fingers. Even when your hands are clean, they have natural oils that can stick to the hair and make it impossible to hold rosin.

SECURE THE CHIN REST

- 1 If the chin rest is loose, use the chin rest wrench to secure it.

- 2 There are two barrels under the chin rest on the tail end of the violin. Each barrel has a hole in the center.



- 3 Place the wrench in each barrel hole and turn slightly to tighten.

- 4 Be careful not to scratch the violin body or to over-tighten the barrels.

CLEAN YOUR VIOLIN EACH TIME YOU PLAY

- 1 Wipe your instrument (including the strings) after each use with a soft, dry, lint-free cloth. Always wipe off excess rosin and fingerprints from the instrument, strings, and bow stick. Do not allow rosin or rosin dust to build up on your strings or instrument, as it can be harmful to the violin.

- 2 Always loosen your bow after use.

CARE AND MAINTENANCE

BODY CARE

- If you find cracks or openings in your violin, they should be repaired immediately. Otherwise, they can spread and cause further damage to the sound and value of the instrument.
- Polish your violin just once or twice a year. Polishing the violin will only help it to look better; it will not improve the sound. Use only a white liquid “crème” violin cleaner polish (don’t use greasy varnish cleaners or polishes containing silicone). Any cracks or openings must be repaired before you polish your instrument. If there are no cracks or openings, you can apply the polish sparingly to the wooden parts of the body with a paper towel, and be sure to

BOW CARE

- If the hair on your bow becomes worn or doesn’t hold rosin well, it will need to be replaced. Bows used every day should be rehaired every 4 -6 months, or once a year if the bow is used less often.
- Never leave a bow in a closed unused case or other dark place for more than a week.
- If the nut on the bow doesn’t turn smoothly, you can lubricate it occasionally with soft wax (like a plain, fragrance-free candle). Don’t use soap, oil, or petroleum products.
- If a string in your bow breaks, don’t pull it. Use scissors to trim it carefully at each end.

BRIDGE

- Check the bridge often to be sure it is upright. If it isn’t upright, readjust it – see “TUNE YOUR VIOLIN.”

SOUND POST

- The sound post is a small dowel held by friction between the top and back of the violin’s body. The sound post acts like a pillar under the bridge, and transfers vibrations from the top to the back. You can see it standing up inside the body if you peek into the f holes. The sound post is placed in the best position when your violin is made, but it may shift from time to time, and should be adjusted by a violin service technician. For help locating a violin service center, call us toll-free at 1-866-710-FAST (3278).

STRINGS

- Your strings should be replaced from time to time to maintain the best sound quality. A second set of strings has been included with your violin for your first replacement.
- Change the strings one at a time. Removing tension from more than one string at a time can damage the adjustment of the bridge and sound post.
- As you change each string, you can lubricate the string grooves, bridge, and nut with a soft graphite pencil.
- New strings need to stretch. It may take an hour or two of playing time before they will hold their pitch.

STORAGE

- Violins are sensitive instruments, treat them with care.
- It is best to store your violin out of the case on a safe shelf or in a cabinet. You can keep it in the case, as long as the case remains open.
- You should never keep your violin in a closed case for more than a week.
- Your violin is very sensitive to changes in temperature and humidity. Store your violin away from direct sunlight and heat sources.
- Be sure to remove your violin from the car, as temperature changes can destroy your instrument.
- Never place objects other than a thin cloth or cover over the bridge when closing the case and be sure that the instrument fits snugly inside the case. Never force the case to close, and never store music, spare strings, or other items in the same compartment as the instrument, as this could cause damage.

TUNING PEGS

- If your pegs are slipping or sticking, consult your violin teacher. You may need to use a peg compound or lubri-

Have fun and happy playing!

FIRST ACT[®] SERVICE PROGRAM

- Limited Lifetime Warranty covering both parts & labor
- Free parts for repair technicians
- Nationwide repair network
- Instrument to borrow during servicing
- First Act Service Team (FAST) Hotline:
1-866-710-FAST (3278)



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