

# Ready? Set? Play!

Sound advice for getting started on your instrument

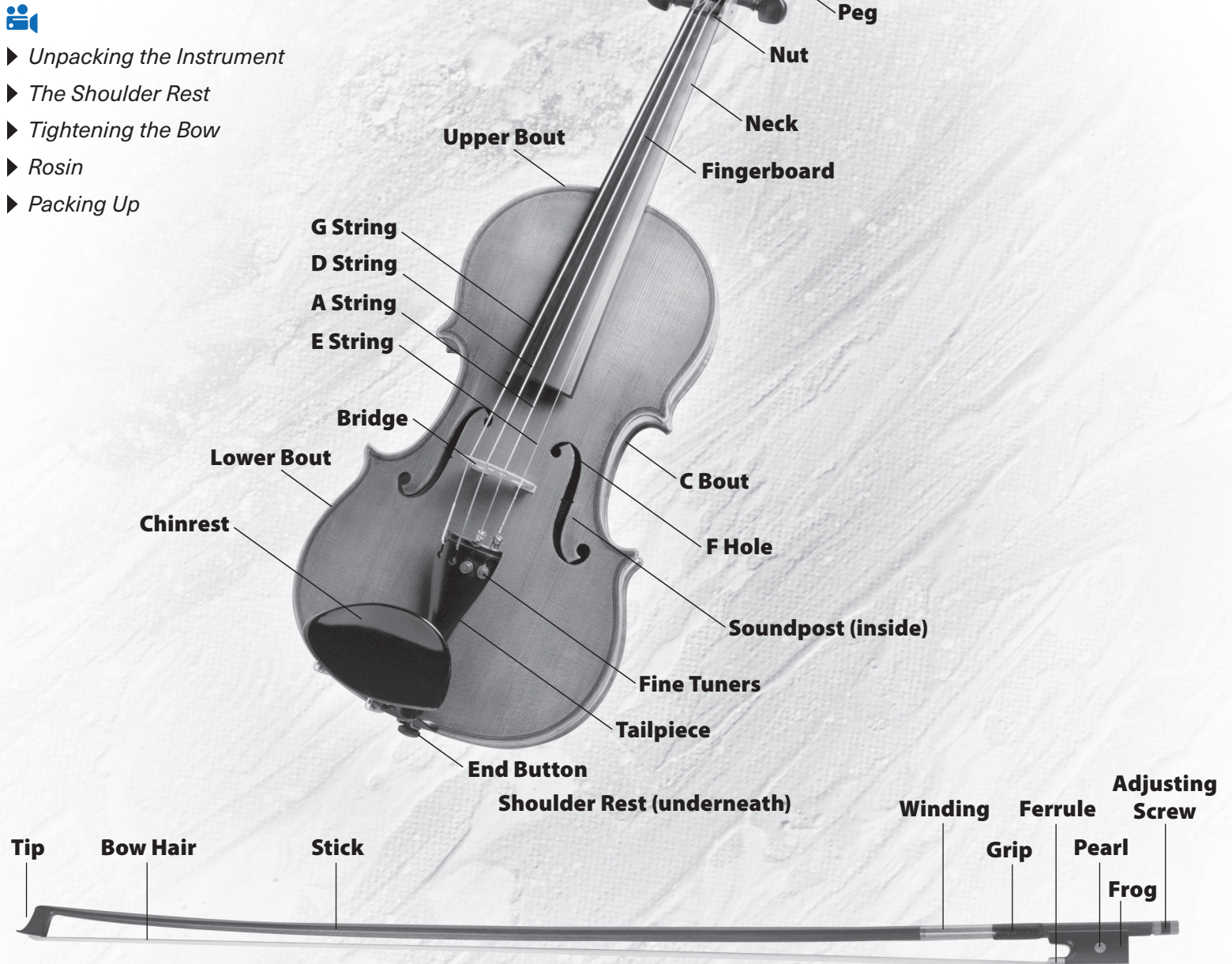
## INSTRUMENT CARE

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



- ▶ Unpacking the Instrument
- ▶ The Shoulder Rest
- ▶ Tightening the Bow
- ▶ Rosin
- ▶ Packing Up

# Level 2: Sound Fundamentals

**LEFT-HAND PIZZICATO** (+) tells you to pluck the string with the 4<sup>th</sup> finger of the left hand.

**FINGER PLUCKS**—Play arco and then pluck with the 4<sup>th</sup> finger.

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## NEW FINGERING



▶ A on the D String

**FOURTH FINGER A ON THE D STRING**—Make sure your 4<sup>th</sup> finger is in tune by comparing it to the open A.

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**A**

**A NEW WAY TO PLAY A**—Play A with the 4<sup>th</sup> finger.

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**FRÈRE JACQUES**—In this familiar song, we practice repeats and the 4<sup>th</sup>-finger A.

French Folk Song

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**DREYDL, DREYDL**—How many times do you play an A?

Jewish Folk Song

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**SHEPHERD'S HEY**—Play the left-hand pizzicato notes with emphasis.

English-Australian Folk Song

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**LEARNING TO PLAY DOUBLE STOPS**—A double stop is when two strings are played at the same time.

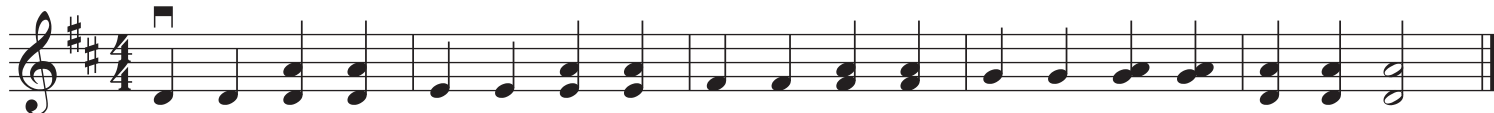
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**A** 

**B** 

**DOUBLE THE FUN**—In order to play double stops with the fingers down, create a tunnel over the open A string with your fingers. While playing a double stop, check the tunnel by plucking the open A string to make sure it rings.

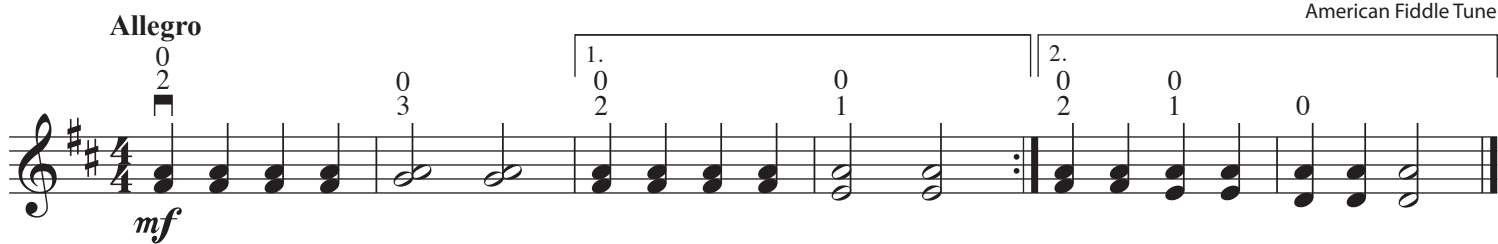
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**BOIL THEM CABBAGE DOWN WITH DOUBLE STOPS**—Play this tune by fingering the lower note on the D string and playing the open A string at the same time. This is often done in fiddle music.


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**Allegro** American Fiddle Tune




A **CRESCENDO** (*cresc.* or ) tells you to gradually play louder.

A **RITARDANDO** (*rit.*) or **RALLENTANDO** (*rall.*) tells you to gradually slow down.

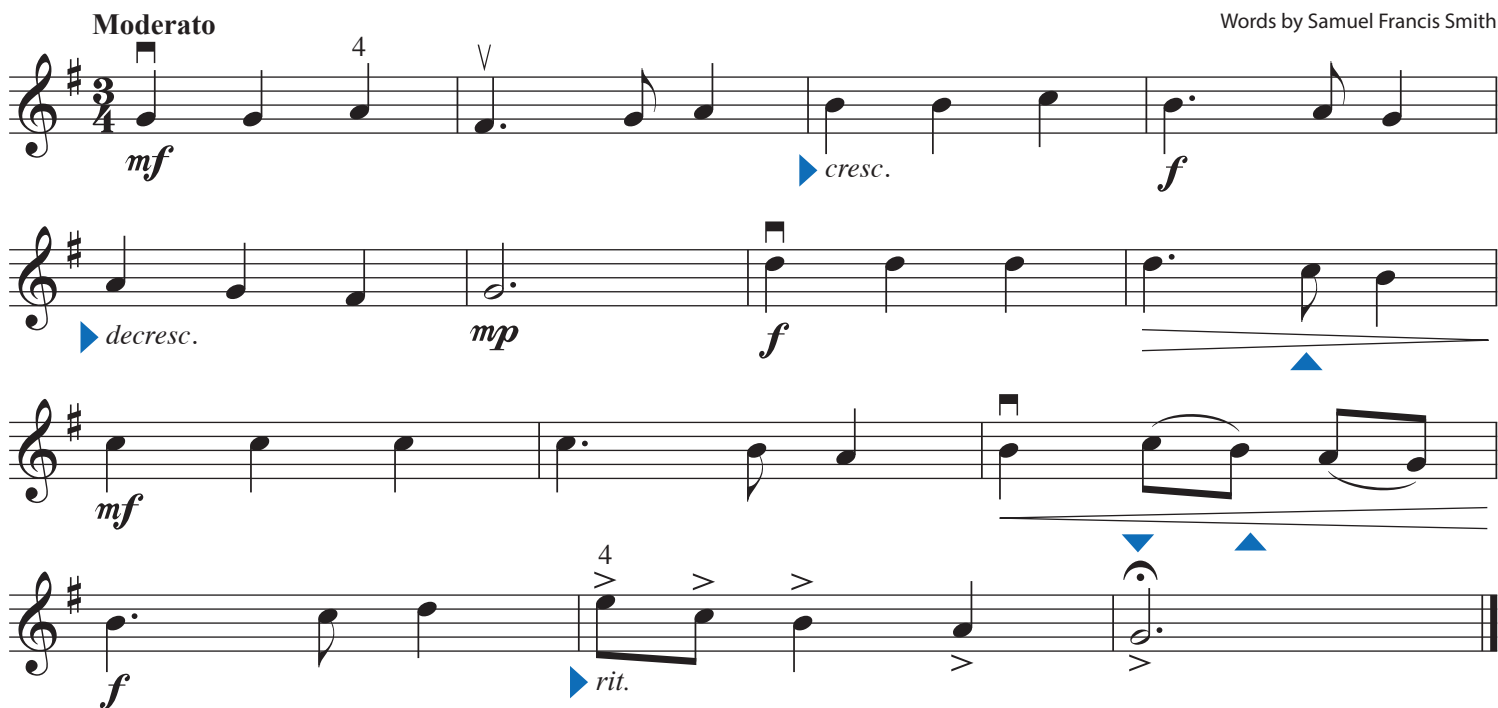
A **DECRESCENDO** (*decresc.* or ) tells you to gradually play softer.

A **FERMATA** () tells you to hold the note longer than its normal value.

**AMERICA (MY COUNTRY 'TIS OF THEE)**—Practice playing the crescendos, decrescendos, ritardando, and fermata.

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**Moderato** Words by Samuel Francis Smith



**SOUND CHECK** Check off each skill you have mastered.

- |                                                                |                                                                   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Playing single eighth notes and rests | <input type="checkbox"/> Playing and reading dotted quarter notes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Playing double stops                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Playing a crescendo and decrescendo      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Playing a ritardando                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Playing a fermata                        |