

Fiolinbygger Jacob von der Lippe AS

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MAINTENANCE OF STRINGED INSTRUMENTS

BY VIOLINMAKER JACOB VON DER LIPPE

Do not tighten the chinrest too much, because it can damage the ribs.

During wintertime, leave the instrument in the unopened case for a few moments coming in from the cold weather. Then open the case, and let it acclimatize to the room temperature.

When you are not playing the instrument, always leave it in the case.

Do not leave the instrument (even when in the case) near radiators, in direct sunlight or close to other heat sources.

Wipe the rosin dust of the instrument carefully with a soft cotton cloth after every use. Remember to clean under the fingerboard and the tailpiece as well.

Always wash your hands before playing the instrument.

Avoid touching too much the varnished parts of the instrument.

Remember to store the shoulder rest safely in the case. Do not let any other objects like pencils, strings or rosin move around freely inside the case. This could potentially damage the instrument.

Keep an eye on the placement and angle of the bridge, especially when changing the strings. The strings should always be changed one at a time. Bring the instrument to a qualified violinmaker to check if you are unsure.

Use a very soft grade pencil in the grooves on the upper nut. This makes tuning easier.

Keep the pegs well lubricated. Use a special peg compound for this.

Check the instrument regularly for cracks, open seams or other damage.

Check that the rubber feet of the shoulder rest are intact. Change the rubber if worn, to avoid damage to the edges of the instrument.

Be careful when using "Damp-It" humidifier inside the instrument. I recommend the "Stretto" humidifying system.

Good luck!

Jacob von der Lippe