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Suppliers of your Requirements for Violins, Violas, Cellos and Double Bases

FITTING A NEW TAILPIECE

Guidance Instructions for fitting and use.

This should ideally be fitted by a luthier, however by taking extreme care, it can be fitted by the player. Please read these instructions carefully before you start. If you are at all unsure, please don't commence, because once you have, you are committed.

Take careful note of the position of the existing tailpiece, and bridge, you will need to replicate these positions with the new tailpiece, tailon and existing bridge.

Fit the tailon into the new tailpiece, and adjust the length equally, both sides, until the lengths match the original.

To prevent the strings from unravelling from the pegs, use a large elastic band, manoeuvre it over the scroll, and release it over the fingerboard and strings.

Carefully release the string tension, gradually, and equally, until they are slack enough to release the string ball (or loop) end from the old tailpiece. Carefully remove the bridge and lay to one side. From this point on, do not knock the instrument or tilt it, or the soundpost could fall over. Remove old tailpiece and tailon. If fitted with an adjuster or adjusters you intend to re-use, remove them, and refit into new tailpiece. Refine length of new tailon by placing alongside old unit. Ideally when the tailon is at the correct length, it should be trimmed to within 1/8" of the brass adjuster. Pull the tailon so that the cut end is far enough away from the tailpiece to enable you to carefully use a lit match to slightly 'burn' the end, so that the adjuster cannot inadvertently loosen. (This is not a critical process, merely optional. If you are unsure, or if you are not using a nylon tailon, do not attempt to undertake this, and never do it over a flammable surface. We suggest over a metal draining board.) Offer tailpiece up to instrument correctly fitting tailon around button (or tailpiece). It is wise to put a bit of chalk under the bridge feet, to prevent it moving when adjusting string tension, and also using a soft pencil (around 6B if possible) lubricate the string grooves on the bridge and top nut, to assist the strings in sliding over them. It is imperative that the bridge is exactly in the same place as before. Making sure that the strings have not come unwound from the peg end, and that they are properly wound on, loosely attach the outer 2 strings and apply a small amount of tension, and fit bridge. If the tailpiece when in position replicates the position of the original, commence refitting the other strings. Gradually equally re tension the strings, ensuring you never go over pitch. Once you have got near to pitch, keep adjusting each string until you have reached pitch. The new tailon will stretch initially, so do not be surprised if it goes out of tune for a short while.

ADJUSTABLE TAILPIECES

Follow the instructions above, however when fitting an adjustable new tailpiece, please note that the adjustment system, will move around, until the strings are fitted, and a little bit of tension added, so be careful.

PUSCH TAILPIECES

When fitting a new Pusch tailpiece, please note that the adjustment system is very mobile and will move around, until the strings are fitted. Please take care not to displace or lose the pivot wire.

Associated Leaflets that may be of assistance are: 'Fitting a new bridge' and 'Fitting new Strings'

This is one of a series of Instruction sheets prepared by JPB Music to help players gain a better understanding. We write these to assist, but if you are still unsure, please either phone for more advice, or ask your teacher for help.

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