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

Sizing Chart for Violin, Viola, and Cello

Don't know what size to get?

Listed below is some useful information about instrument sizes. Find out what size violin, viola, or cello you have. Find out what size is right for you.

*Don't know what size you have? Below are common sizes for violin, viola, and Cello.
Instruments may vary in size from the measurements listed on this chart.*

All measurements are in Inches. 1 Inch = 25.4 mm	Size	Body Length	Total Length	Max Width
Cello European Standard	4/4 Full	30	48	17.75
	7/8	28.50	46.5	17
	3/4	27.25	45	16
	1/2	26	42	15
	1/4	23	38.5	13.5
	1/8	20	33.5	11.75
	1/10	17.75	29.5	9.75
Cello Suzuki Standard	4/4 Full	30	48	17.75
	3/4	26	42	15
	1/2	23	38.5	13.5
	1/4	20	33.5	11.75
	1/8	17.75	29.5	9.75
Viola	16.5	16.5	27	9
	16	16	26.5	8.75
	15.5	15.5	26	8.5
	15	15	25	8.0
	14	(4/4 VI)	23	7.5
	13	(3/4 VI)	21.75	7
	12	(1/2 VI)	20.5	6.75
Violin				
	4/4	14	23.5	7.5
	7/8	13.5	22.5	7.25

3/4	13	21.75	7
1/2	12.5	20.5	6.75
1/4	11.5	18.75	6
1/8	10.25	17.25	5.5
1/10	9.25	16	5
1/16	8.25	14.5	4.45

Violin Sizes by Arm Length

The Violin comes in 8 different sizes: 4/4 (also called Full size), 3/4, 1/2, 1/4, 1/8, 1/10, 1/16. 4/4 size being the biggest and 1/16 size being the smallest. All adults, regardless of their size, use the 4/4 violin. There is another uncommon size, 7/8, usually used by female professional violinist who wants a full-size violin sound but whose hand might be a little small for the full size violin. So violin makers would make violins just a little smaller than full size to accommodate these players.

Violin Size	Arm Length (in inches)
4/4 (Full Size)	23
3/4	22
1/2	20
1/4	18 ½
1/8	16 ½
1/10	15
1/16	14

To measure what size violin best suits you, you need to know the length between your neck and the middle of your left-hand palm (when your hand is fully extended and raised perpendicular to your body, just like holding a violin). Some teachers prefer students to use the length from the neck to the wrist for measurement instead of the neck to mid-palm approach. The violin size determined by the neck/wrist approach would be the size that is more comfortable for students to hold. The violin size determined by the neck/mid-palm approach would be the biggest size students should use.

If you have a teacher, you should ask for your teacher's recommendation. If you don't have a teacher, we would recommend using the neck/wrist approach for students not using full size. For students who are deciding whether to used 3/4 or 4/4 size, use the neck/mid-palm approach. This is because it is always better that student's feel comfortable holding and playing the violin.

The following chart lists the length of each violin size. Find your length using your preferred approach and use that to determine the size of violin to get.

Violin Sizes by Age:

	Violin Size	Age
Another more general way of determining the size is by age. If the above, arm length information, is available, it is the more accurate way to determine size. Otherwise, you can use the age chart below to make the determination.	4/4 (Full Size)	12 year and older
	3/4	10-11
	1/2	8-9
	1/4	6-7
	1/8	5-6
	1/10	4-5
	1/16	3 and below

Cello Sizing Tips:

Seat the child (or yourself) so that the knees are bent at a ninety degree angle. The instrument should rest such that the upper rim of the cello body rests on the sternum (breast bone), and the left knee contacts the curve below the lower bout corner. The C string (the lowest string) peg should be near the left ear, with the neck a few inches away from the shoulder, and the left hand able to reach both ends of the fingerboard with ease.

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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