

BestStudentViolins.com

Stringed instruments, bows & cases



Viola Resources

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What's the difference between the violin and the viola?

Violins come in "fractional sizes" (4/4, 3/4, 1/2, 1/4, 1/8, 1/16, even a tiny 1/32). The 4/4 is full size, suitable for nearly all adults. The 7/8 size is rather rare, and only available in the more expensive instruments. It is frequently used by adults who are very petite. [Please see: [K500 Student Outfit available in 7/8](#)]

Violas: While violins come in fractional sizes, violas are measured in inches (17", 16 1/2", 16", 15", 14", 13", 12"). For students changing from violin to viola, or adding viola after studying violin, the 14" viola is approximately the same size as a full size violin. Many violists start on violin. [Please see our [Peccard Viola Outfit](#)]

The 16" is the usual adult size. Any size above the 16" may be difficult to handle for young people and is probably not recommended. Viola length is measured in centimeters in Europe (41cm, 41.5cm and 42cm), and there is no exact standard with respect to size. Many professional violists play a 17" viola; Michael Tree (of the [Guarneri Quartet](#)), Bruno Giuranna, Gerard Coussè. [See discussion on [Maestronet](#)]



The viola is a fifth lower in pitch than the violin; the lowest string on the viola is the C string. The viola's second string, the G, is the violin's lowest string. Violas have no E string, the top string on violin. The A=440 (the violin's second string), is the top string on viola. The viola is primarily written in the alto clef (though high registers may be written in treble, like the violin). See:



Viola strings (and range)

The **violin and viola étude repertoire** is much the same, with additional works in viola by Fuchs, Campagnoli and others. Some of the literature for violin has been transcribed for viola (and visa versa), but viola literature is quite different. See: [Advanced Viola Literature](#)

Note that the viola is "not just a big violin." Violists will have you assassinated if you even think that. Playing the viola requires a very different touch, different fingerings, different position work, different vibrato, and an entirely different mindset with respect to its role in the orchestral and chamber music repertoire. Violists are very sensitive about this.

Viola Links

Suzuki Viola books and CDs

<http://beststudentviolins.com/sheetmusic.html#viola>

20th Century Works for Viola *New!*

<http://beststudentviolins.com/20thCen.html#viola>

Barbara Barber Books and CDs

<http://beststudentviolins.com/sheetmusic.html#barber>

Fiddling for Viola *New!*

<http://beststudentviolins.com/Fiddle.html#viola>

Viola Literature (études)

<http://beststudentviolins.com/sheetmusic.html#violalit>

Slapin-Solomon Viola Duo Forum *New!*

<http://www.violaduo.com/forum/index.php>

Advanced Chamber Literature

http://beststudentviolins.com/lit.html#adv_chamb_lit

Viola List

<http://launch.groups.yahoo.com/group/viola/>

American Viola Society

<http://www.americanviolasociety.org/>

Viola Concertos

http://beststudentviolins.com/lit.html#viola_concertos

Free Viola Music

<http://beststudentviolins.com/freemusic.html#freeviolamusic>

Advanced Viola Literature

http://beststudentviolins.com/lit.html#adv_vla_lit

International Viola Society

<http://www.internationalviolasociety.org/>

Duets

[Violin/Viola](#), [Viola/Viola](#), [Viola/Cello](#)

Trios with Viola

<http://beststudentviolins.com/lit.html#trios>

Viola Books

- Barnes, Gregory (ed): [*Playing and Teaching the Viola*](#) (published by ASTA)
 - Barrett, Henry: [*The Viola: Complete Guide for Teachers & Students*](#)
 - Coletta, Harold: [*Dangerous Harmonies: The Memoir of Harold Coletta*](#)
 - Curtis, Liane (ed): [*A Rebecca Clarke Reader*](#)
 - Dalton, David: [*Playing the Viola*](#)
 - Forbes, Watson: [*Strings to my Bow. A Memoir*](#)
 - Giorgetti, Ferdinando, Franco Sciannameo [*An Historical Introduction*](#)
 - Heimberg, Tom: [*Making a Musical Life*](#)
 - Hoffheimer, Michael: [*Fiddling for Viola*](#)
 - Madden, Maxine: [*Sounds on Strings: Getting to Know Your Viola*](#)
 - Maurice, Donald: [*Bartók's Viola Concerto: The Remarkable Story of His Swansong*](#)
 - Menuhin, Yehudi and William Primrose: [*Violin & Viola*](#)
 - Primrose, William: [*Technique is Memory. A method for violin and viola players based on finger patterns, etc.*](#)
 - Primrose, William: [*Walk on the North Side, Memoirs of a Violist*](#)
 - Riley, Maurice: [*History of the Viola*](#)
 - Stowell, Robin: [*The Early Violin and Viola : A Practical Guide*](#)
 - Tertis, Lionel: [*My viola and I: A complete autobiography*](#)
 - Weaver, Michael Alan: [*Works for the Viola by Pulitzer Prize Winning Composers*](#)
 - White, John (ed): [*An Anthology of British Viola Players*](#)
 - White, John: [*Lionel Tertis: The First Great Virtuoso of the Viola*](#)
 - Williams, Amedee Daryl: [*Lillian Fuchs: First Lady of the Viola*](#)
 - Zaslav, Bernard: [*The Viola in My Life: An Alto Rhapsody*](#)
 - Zeyringer, Franz: [*Literatur Für Viola*](#)
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Viola Sight-Reading Books

ABRSM: Violin Specimen Sight Reading [Tests 1-5](#), [Tests 6-8](#)

Anthony, Robert: 300 Progressive Sight Reading Exercises for Viola Large Print Version [Vol. 1](#), [Vol. 2](#)

Blackwell, Kathy and David: [Viola Time Scales: Pieces, Puzzles, Scales, and Arpeggios](#)

Harris, Paul: [Improve Your Sight-reading! Viola, Grade 1-5: A Workbook for Examinations](#)

Kember, John: Viola Sight-Reading [Vol. 1](#), [Vol. 2](#)

Schreck, Suzanne: Sight Reading Skills for Suzuki Viola Students [Vol. 1](#)

Learning Treble Clef:

- Harvey, Cassia: [Treble Clef for the Viola](#)
 - Cohen, Mary: [Quick Change! for Viola: Clef Switching for Viola Made Easy](#)
 - Stuen-Walker, Elizabeth: [Treble Clef for Violists](#)
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Viola Scale Books

- Julia Adams: [Scales for the Intermediate Violist](#)

Barbara Barber Viola Scale Books:

- [Scales for Young Violists](#)
- [Scales for Advanced Violists](#)

- Kathy Blackwell: [Viola Time Scales: Pieces, Puzzles, Scales, and Arpeggios](#)
- George Bornoff: [Finger Patterns for Viola](#)
- Susan Brown: [Two Octave Scales And Bowings For The Viola](#)
- Castleman/Koob: [Tonal Applications of Finger Patterns](#)
- Mary Cohen: [Scaley Monsters](#)
- Carl Flesch: [Scale Studies – viola](#)
- Samuel Flor: [I Like to Play Scales for the Viola](#)
- Ivan Galamian: [The Galamian Scale System For Viola \(Volume 1\)](#)
- Rudolf Haken: Scales and Arpeggios
- Dr. Michael Kimber: [Scales, Arpeggios, and Double Stops for the Violist](#)
- Leonard Mogill: [Mogill Scale Studies - viola](#)
- William Primrose: [The Art and Practice of Scale Playing on the Viola](#)
- Ellen Rose: [Extreme Viola](#). Printed to order. [Contact](#)
- Henry Schradieck: [School Of Viola Technics - Bk. 1](#), [Bk. 2](#), [Bk. 3](#)
- William H. Somach: [Accidentals Happen! - First Position](#), [Two Octaves](#), [Three Octaves](#)
- Stephanie Tretick: [Vademecum Scales for Viola](#)

Accidentals Happen! Scale Books by William H. Somach

Major & Minor, Modes, Dominant 7th, Pentatonic & Ethnic, Diminished & Augmented, Whole Tone, Jazz & Blues, Chromatic

VIOLA:

- [Scales for Viola in First Position](#)
 - [Scales for Viola in One Octave](#)
 - [Scales for Viola in Two Octaves](#)
 - [Scales for Viola in Three Octaves](#)
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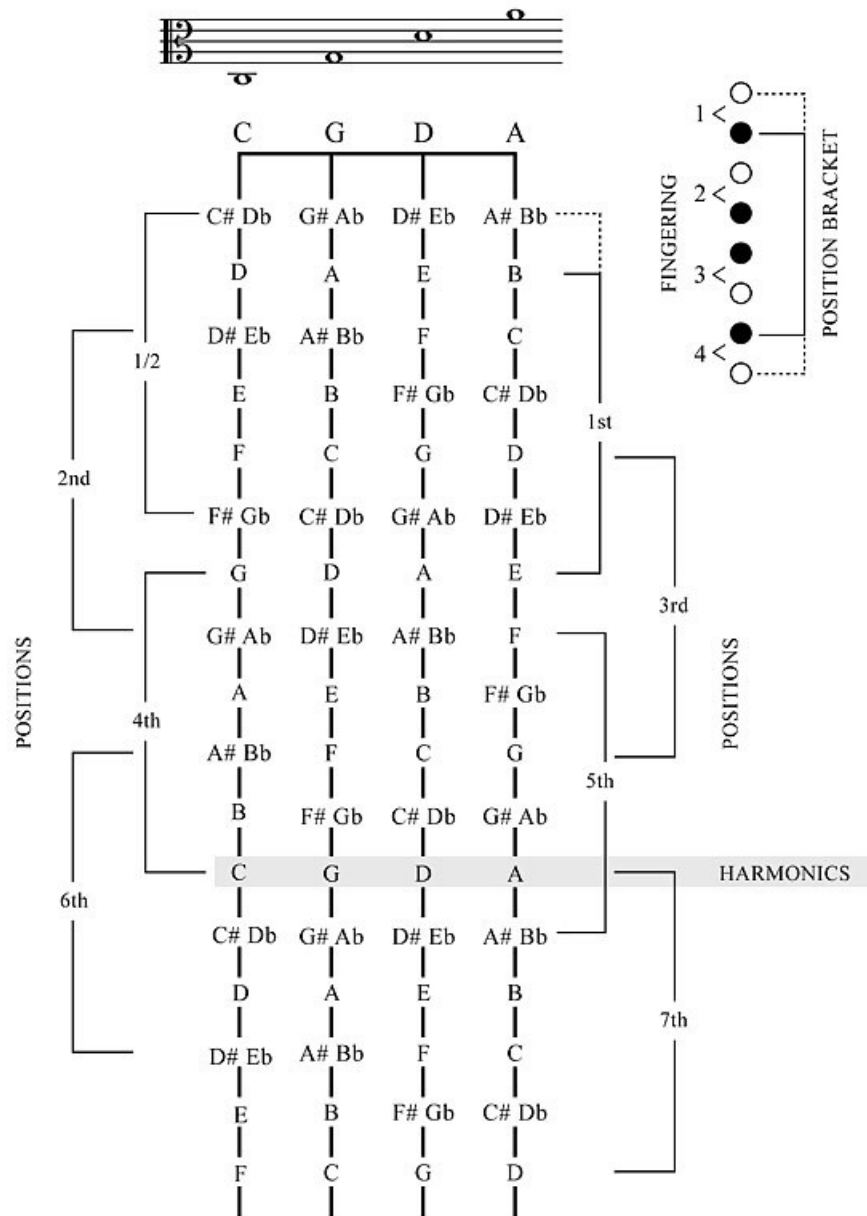
Changing to or Adding Viola

- Barrett, Henry: [Viola: Complete Guide for Teachers and Students](#)
 - Bruni, Antonio: [25 Studies](#)
 - Cohen, Mary: [Quick Change! for Viola: Clef Switching for Viola Made Easy](#)
 - Iotti, Oscar: [Practical Method \(trans. Laoureux\)](#)
 - Langey, Otto: [Celebrated Tutor](#)
 - Laubach, Alfred: [Practical Viola School](#)
 - Pinksterboer, Hugo: [Tipbook - Violin and Viola](#)
 - Pounds, Dwight: [Viola for Violinists: The Conversion Kit](#)
 - Simon, : [From Violin to Viola](#)
 - Spaulding, Florence: [Right Hand Culture for Violin, Viola, and Cello Players](#)
 - Stuen-Walker, Elizabeth: [Treble Clef for Violists](#)
 - Tours, Berthold: [The Viola](#)
 - Volmer, Berta: [Bratschenschule](#)
 - Whistler, Harvey: [From Violin to Viola: A Transitional Method](#)
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Viola Size Chart

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| • Age: Large Adult <u>16"-17"</u> | • Age: 9-12 <u>14"</u> |
| • Age: Average Adult <u>15.5"</u> | • Age: 7-9 <u>13"</u> |
| • Age: 10-12, Small Adult <u>15"</u> | • Age: 6-7 <u>12"</u> |
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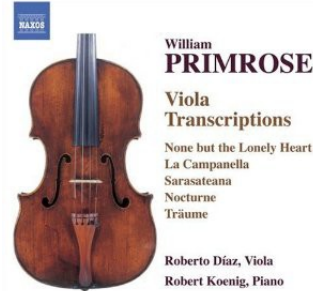
FINGERING CHART VIOLA



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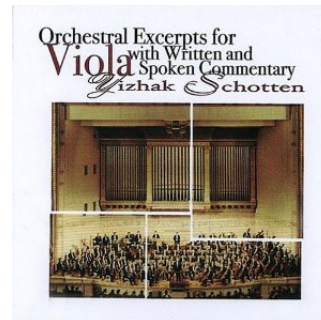
[Orchestra Excerpts for Viola](#)



[William Primrose: Viola Transcriptions](#)



[The Elegant Viola: Yizhak Schotten](#)



[Orchestral Excerpts for Viola, with written and spoken commentary](#)

Peccard Student Viola Outfit

<http://beststudentviolins.com/violas.html#Peccard>

Rosalia Student Viola Outfit

<http://beststudentviolins.com/violas.html#RosaliaVLA>

Budget Student Viola Outfits from SAGA

http://beststudentviolins.com/SAGA_strings.html#ViolaOutfits

Viola Cases

- [17" Viola Cases](#)
- [Double Violin/Viola Cases](#)
- [Bobelock, Shaped](#)
- [Bobelock, Half Moon](#)
- [Bobelock, Oblong](#)
- [Core Viola Cases](#)
- [GEWA Viola Cases](#)
- [Jaeger Viola Case](#)