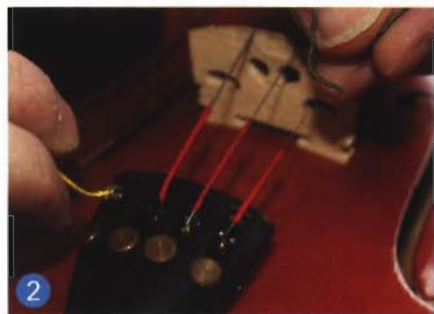


How To ... Change a Violin String



1
Loosen the old string: Unwind the string at the peghead and gently pull the slack until it comes through the hole. Don't force or cut the string.

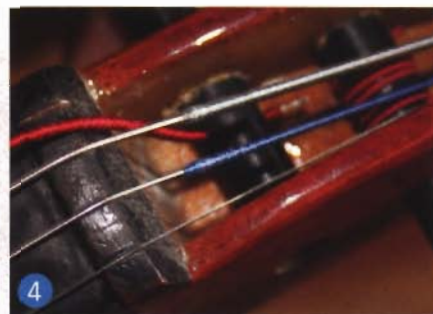
Strings on bowed instruments like violin, viola, cello, and double bass may last longer than those on their plucked relative the guitar, but they should still be changed regularly—before they break! Warning signs include frayed windings, difficulty in tuning, and generally dull tone. There are many different varieties of strings for each instrument; some are designed to sound bright, others mellow. Ideally, you should change all four strings at a time and use a complete set from one brand—this will offer the most balanced tone. Be sure the strings match your instrument's scale, too. **T**



2
Unmount the string from the bridge: On instruments with microtoners, you may have to take the string out of the tailpiece manually.



3
Choose the right string: It sounds obvious, but it's a common mistake to grab the wrong one. The ball (blue) end goes to the tailpiece.



4
Thread the string through the peg: Use just enough to get the end completely through the hole. Tighten gently, but not all the way.



5
Mount the ball end on the bridge: Before the string is completely tight, slot it into the tailpiece.



6
Tighten the string: Make sure that the end wraps neatly, with no overlap. Push the tuning peg in as you tighten to prevent slipping.



7
Place the damper: Steel strings, like this high E, often have a damper; this goes into the slot where the string meets the bridge.

> Safe Stringing

■ While experienced players and repair people sometimes remove all four strings before putting on new ones, beginners should not: The bridge and microtoners are held on by the force of the strings, and these parts will fall off when the strings are removed (left).



8
Change the complete set, one at a time: Once the strings are in place, be sure the bridge hasn't moved and strings are firmly mounted.



9
Tune up: Be sure not to over-tighten the string; this can cause it to break or cause the bridge to pop off. If you have a tuner, use it!