

# Recipe for Changing a String

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Inspired by: Alex Ross

Always save old strings; you never know when you'll need a spare. Store in a string tube OR place the used string in the new string's package. Label it with the brand of string, today's date, and for how long it was used.

## Ingredients:

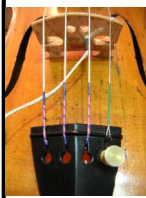
New String(s)  
Peg Dope or Compound  
Sharp Pencil  
An A440 note for tuning  
**Optional Ingredients:**  
70% Isopropyl (Rubbing) Alcohol  
Cotton Balls/Paper Towel/Soft Cloth

The tailpiece side of the bridge should maintain a 90-degree angle with the top of the violin. To adjust this angle, secure the bottom sides of the violin against your body. Place your fingertips and thumb(s) on top of the bridge, in between the string notches. Move the bridge slightly toward or away from yourself to adjust.



## To change a set of strings:

1. Remove the old G-string from the violin (turn peg toward yourself to loosen).
2. Remove G-string peg from hole; swipe the long side of the peg with peg compound 4-6 times around; return.
3. Wipe down the exposed section of the fingerboard with a paper towel or cotton ball dampened with alcohol.
4. Lubricate the G-string notches, on the nut and on the bridge, with pencil lead.
5. Put on the new (G) string:



## Putting on the String

- ◆ Insert the ball or loop end of the string into its corresponding hole or fine tuner in the tailpiece.
- ◆ Follow the string up (running your index finger and thumb up the string to prevent twisting), while placing it in its corresponding notch on the bridge.
- ◆ Insert the top end of the string into the hole in the string's peg, just far enough for it to poke out the other side.
- ◆ Wind the peg away from yourself (counterclockwise for D and G, clockwise for A and E).
- ◆ Let the string move toward the peg you are turning until it is flush with the inside edge of the peg box. Make sure the string goes into its corresponding notches on the bridge and nut.
- ◆ Bring the string close to pitch.



6. Repeat steps 1-5 with the D, A and E strings, changing one string at a time.
7. Slowly bring the violin back up to pitch. Make sure the bridge stays upright as you tighten the pegs.
8. Allow the strings to stretch and adjust for 1-3 weeks; tune as often as needed.

## To change one string:

1. Use steps 1-5 for whichever string you are changing.
2. Re-tune this string as often as needed to stay in tune.

Violin strings should be changed every 4-6 months.



**A.** If a peg feels too tight and is difficult to turn, you may have wound the string too tightly against the inside of the peg box. (left)

**B.** If a peg feels too loose and doesn't easily stay in place, you may need to wind the string more tightly against the inside of the peg box. (right)

