

Recipe for a **String-Cleaning Kit** *You Can Keep in Your Violin Case*

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Every time I would clean my violin in front of a former private teacher, she would remind me, "Don't forget to clean under the strings." Every time for years!



Ingredients:

Old 35mm Film Container

Cotton Balls (10-12)

70% Isopropyl Rubbing Alcohol (1-3 teaspoons)

Lint-free piece of cloth 2" x 20" (old T-Shirt recommended)



Make the Kit:

1. Place cotton balls, two at a time, into film container. In between each addition, add 1/2 t. rubbing alcohol. Fill container until alcohol is fully absorbed into cotton balls. Squish cotton down in container to test for excess alcohol. DO NOT super-saturate the cotton balls; they should not drip when squeezed.
2. Return lid securely on top; wrap the piece of cloth around the container and store in violin case.



Use the Kit:

1. To clean strings and ebony parts of the violin, use cotton balls as needed.
2. To clean under the fingerboard, tail-piece, and strings use the piece of cloth in a back-and-forth manner holding one end in each hand.
3. DO NOT use the rubbing alcohol on the varnished wood of the violin.



Violins get dirty! Oils from skin, make-up from faces, dirty hands, and air quality all influence the cleanliness of our violins.



Keep your Eyes Peeled:

Some manufacturers put paint, shoe polish and the like onto low-quality, or non-ebony fingerboards to make them look dark black and shiny! (You might want to use a damp

cloth to clean non-ebony fingerboards.) Do not be alarmed if you rub this off. It will look black or purple on your cotton ball and you may need to bring in some extra alcohol and paper towels to clean it off.

For a thick build-up of rosin on your strings, use a piece of fine steel wool to loosen it off.