

Tuning a String Instrument

Tuning Basics

Use big pegs when you are far away from pitch

Use fine-tuners when you are close to pitch

Keep playing (or plucking) as you adjust

Tightening a peg too much can break a string!

Know Your Strings!

Violins from highest to lowest:
E A D G

Violas/Cellos from highest to lowest: A D G C

Basses from highest to lowest:
G D A E

Fine Tuners

Turn clockwise to tighten string and counterclockwise to loosen the string

Use only for small adjustments

If tuner is out of threads, re-adjust the big pegs.

Drones or Tuner?

You can use a reference pitch to get close (piano, online drone, etc.)

- Listen first, then adjust
- Best practice for developing your ear

Use a tuner to get your pitch exact

- Much faster and no question you are in tune
- Best for fine-tune adjustments

Big Pegs

Turn away (scroll) to tighten the string

Turn towards you (bridge) to loosen the string

If peg loses grip and loosens, push in as you tighten

*you may need "peg compound" to put on the peg to help it stick

Basses Only

Your big pegs are also fine tuners; you can use them for both!