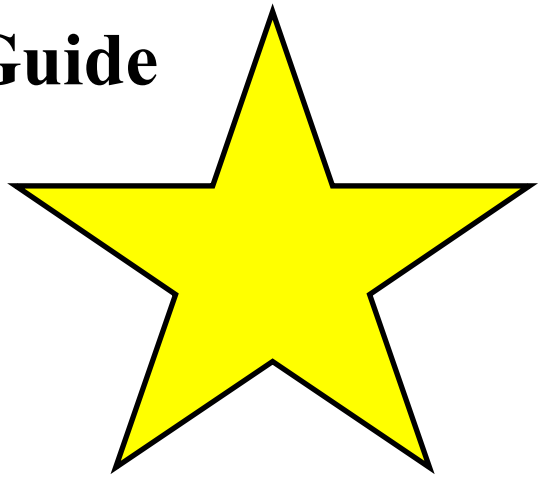
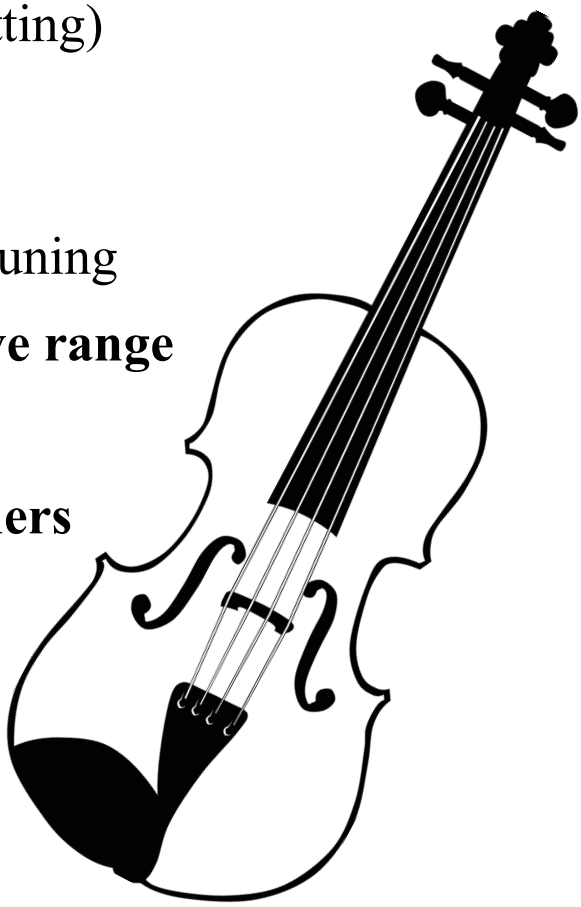
Anyone Can Tune A Violin!

Ms. Laura's Guide



What do you need?

- A **violin** with 4 fine tuners
- This guide (read all before tuning)
- A chromatic **tuner** (app or device)
- A **chair** (it's easier to tune while sitting)



What do you need to know?

- The **parts of the violin** needed for tuning
- The **names of the strings** and **octave range**
- How to **use a chromatic tuner**
- How to **choose the pegs or fine tuners**
- How to **tune using the pegs**
- How to **tune using the fine tuners**
- How to **avoid breaking a string**

"It is super easy to tune a violin, all you need is this step-by-step guide! Don't be afraid, you cannot break the violin. The worst thing that could happen is a broken string. And if that happens, it is easy and inexpensive to replace with my *How to Replace a String* guide, So put your fears away and keep reading!"

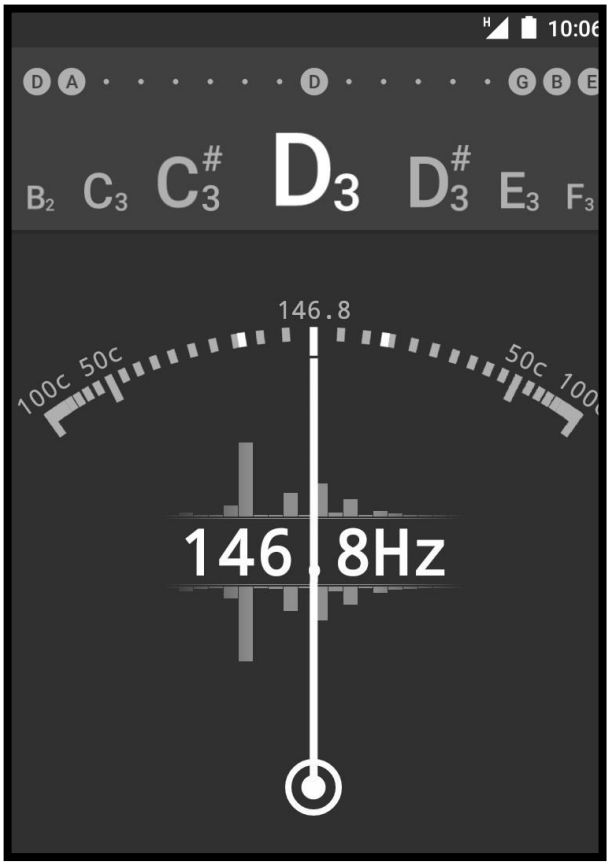
~ Miss Laura

Chromatic Tuner

Here are my suggestions for Chromatic Tuners.

Free app for an iphone or ipad
with in app purchases
Tuner Lite by Piascore
Find in the App Store

Free App for an android
with in app purchases
gStrings
Find in Google Play



Device to purchase
Korg Chrommatic Tuner
Find on Amazon or a music
store for approx. $20
Takes 2 AAA Batteries

Best Position for Tuning

Feel comfortable and in control when tuning a violin.
Please keep reading this entire guide before trying to tune.

When using the **Pegs** to tune:

- Sit in a chair.
- Hold the violin so that the strings are facing toward you and the scroll is pointing up.
- Rest the violin on your leg for stability.
- Set the tuner where you can see it.
- Pluck the string with your thumb and check the tuner.
- Use one hand to turn the peg and the other hand to support the opposite side of the scroll.

When using the **Fine Tuners** to tune:

- Hold the shoulder of the violin for stability.
- Pluck the string with your thumb and check the tuner.
- Use one hand to turn the fine tuners, still holding the shoulder of the violin.

Parts of the Violin

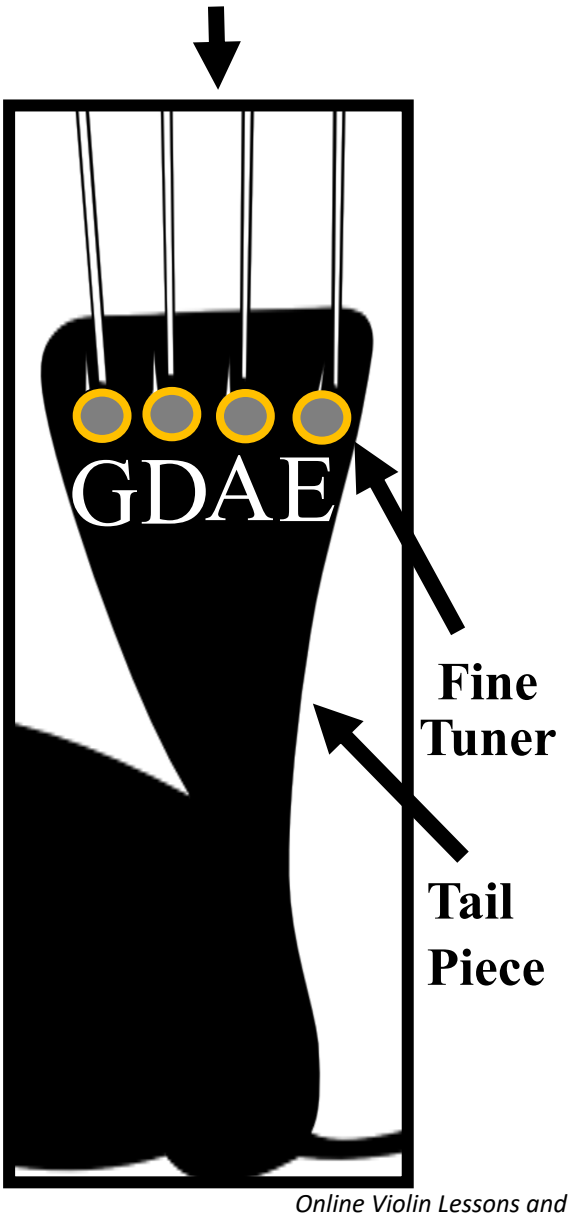
The violin parts needed for tuning.

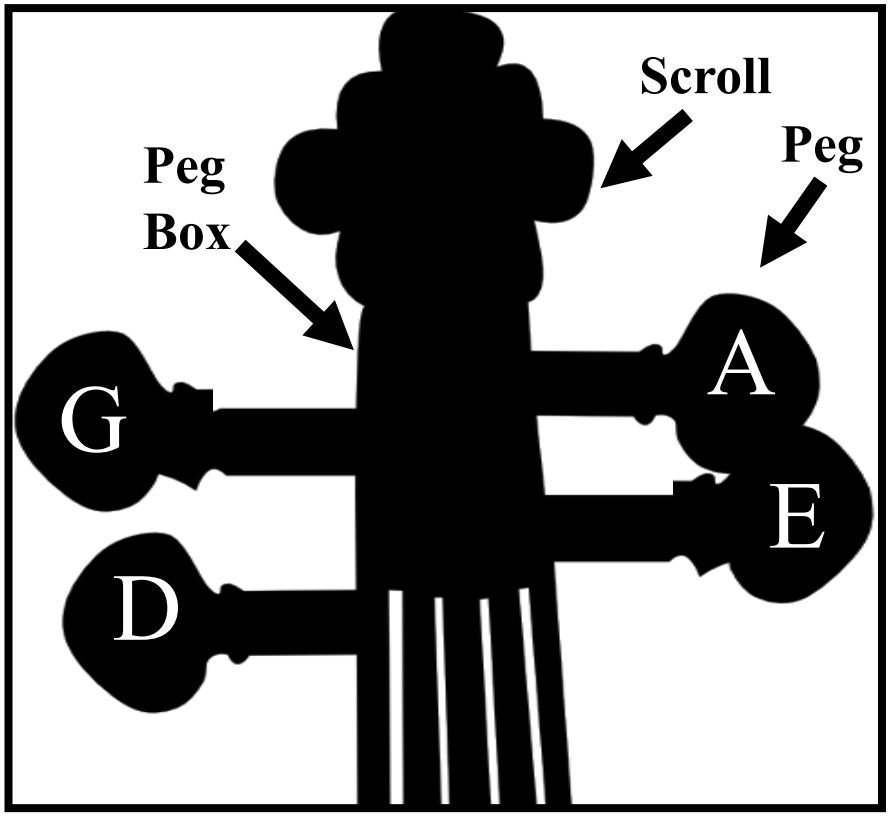
Scroll : Pegs : Peg Box : Fine Tuners : Tailpiece : Strings

You will be using the **Pegs** and the **Fine Tuners** to tune.

The **Pegs** are located at the **Scroll** end of the violin.

The **Fine Tuners** are located at the **Tailpiece** end of the violin.





See page 7 for how to choose the PEGS or FINE TUNERS and decide the direction to turn them.

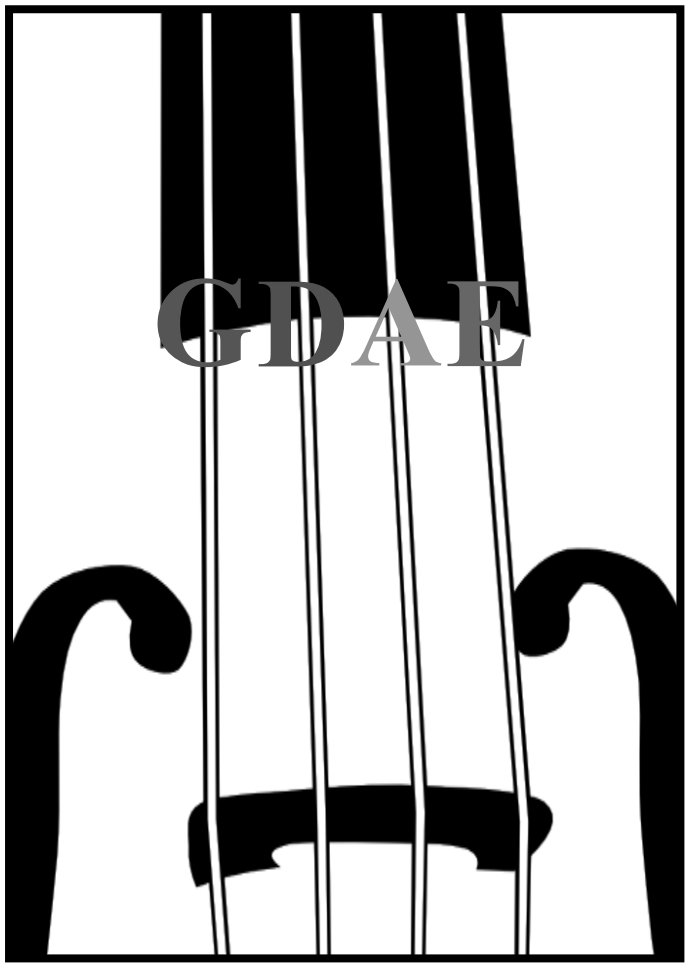
Violin Strings

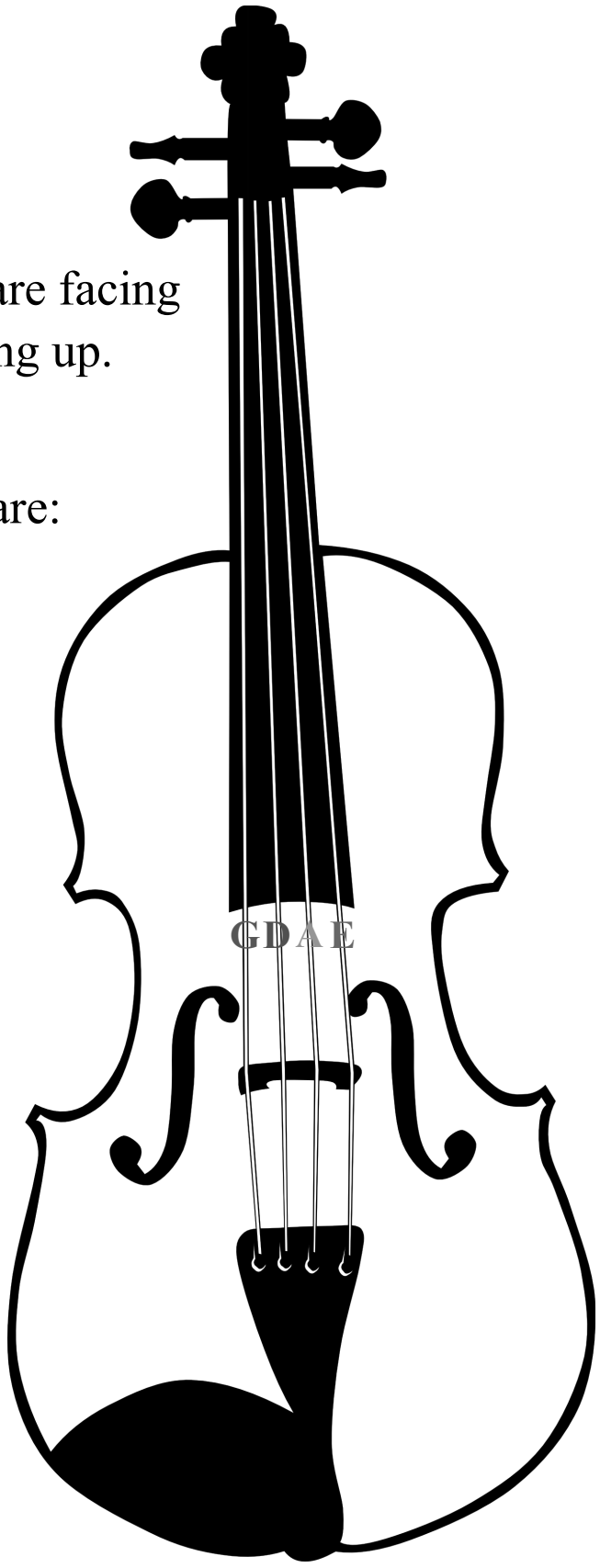
String names on the violin.

Hold the violin so that the strings are facing toward you and the scroll is pointing up.

The strings from **Left to Right** are:

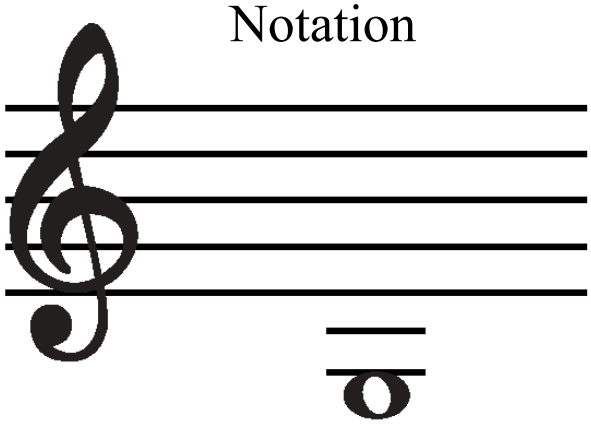
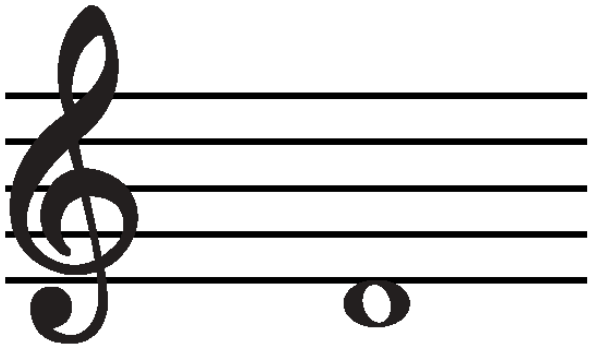
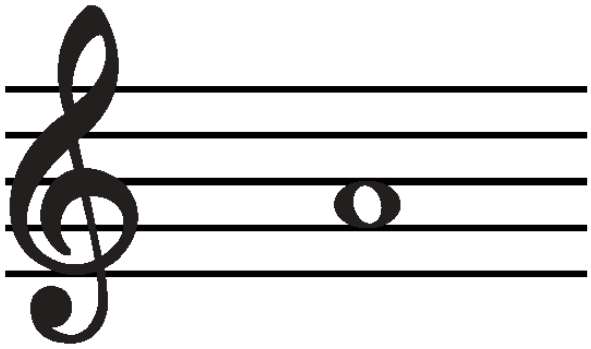
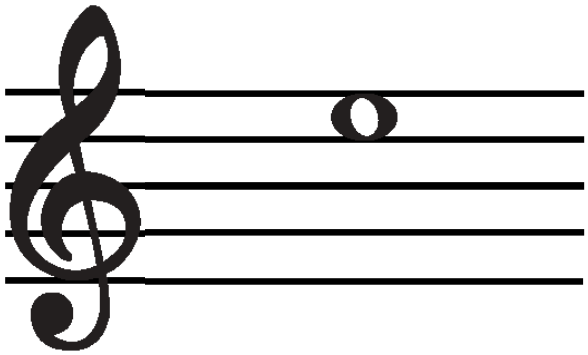
G D A E





Violin Strings

Each string has a name and an octave range.

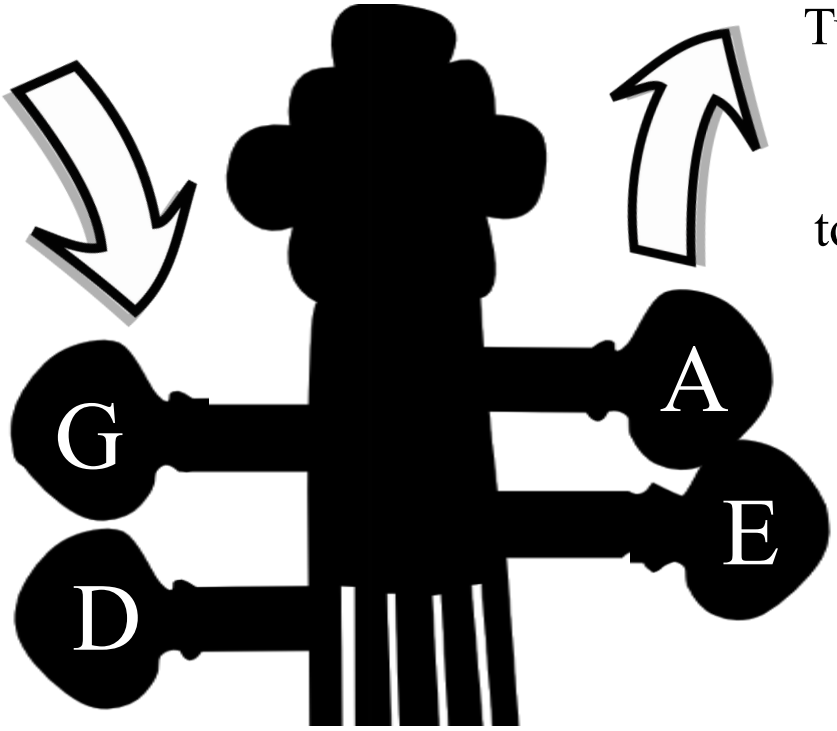
String Name	Musical Notation	Octave Range
G		G3
D		D4
A		A4
E		E5

Choose the PEGS or FINE TUNERS

And decide the direction to turn them.

Use the **PEGS** to make **BIG** changes to the pitch:

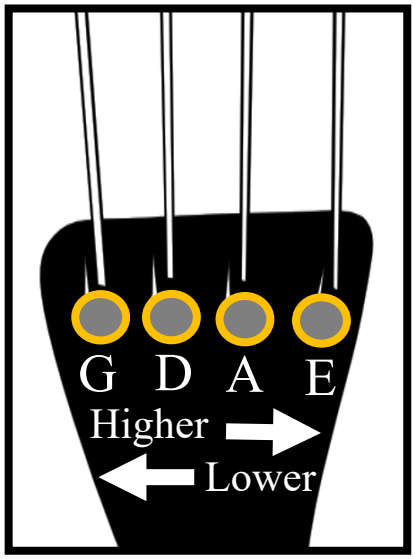
Turn the peg TOWARD you to make the pitch LOWER



Turn the peg AWAY from you to make the pitch HIGHER

Use the **FINE TUNERS** to make **SMALL** changes to the pitch:

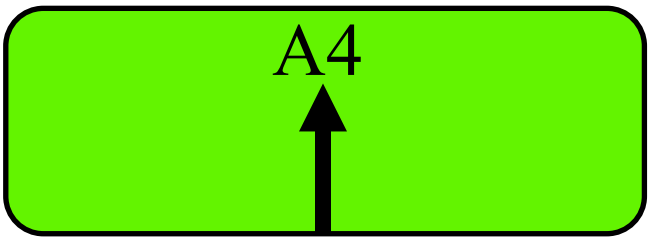
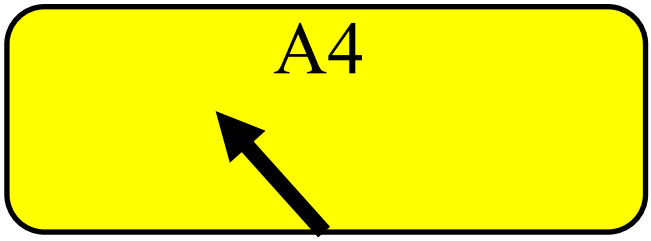
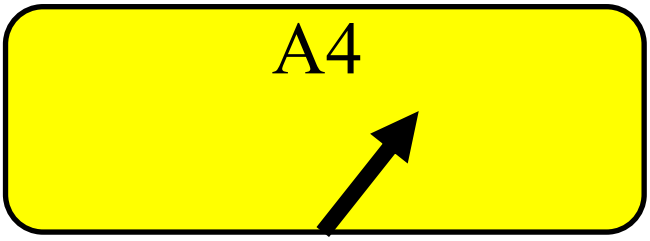
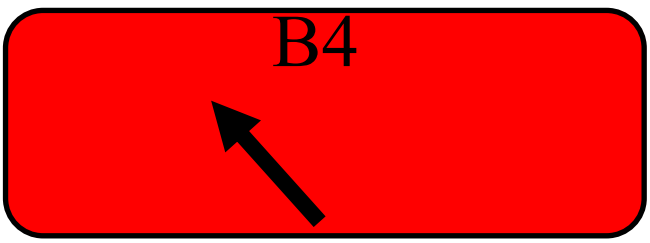
Turn the fine tuner COUNTER CLOCKWISE to make the pitch LOWER



Turn the fine tuner CLOCKWISE to make the pitch HIGHER

How to Read a Tuner Needle

All tuners have a needle that shows where the pitch is registering.
This example is for tuning the A string.

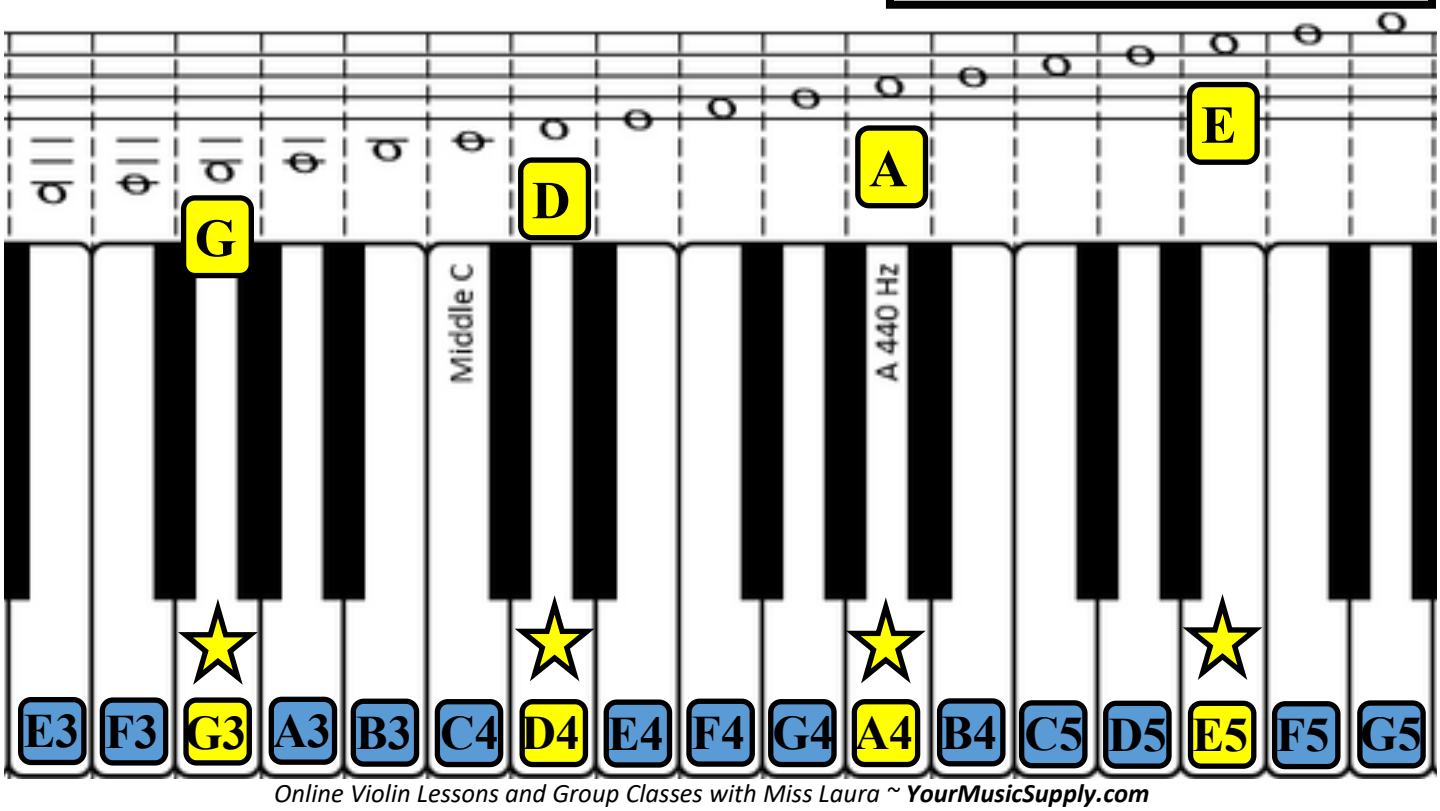
If the tuner needle looks like this:	Do this:
Pitch name and octave are correct. Tuner needle is in the middle. 	**Do nothing.** The A string is in tune.
Pitch name and octave are correct. Tuner needle is to the left of center. 	**Use the fine tuners.** Turn clockwise to make the pitch higher.
Pitch name and octave are correct. Tuner needle is to the right of center. 	**Use the fine tuners.** Turn counter clockwise to make the pitch lower.
Pitch name is incorrect. And/Or octave is incorrect. 	**Use the pegs.** See the next page for octave range details and to decide the direction to turn the peg.

Pitch Octaves

Each pitch is located in an octave range.
Use the pegs when the pitch name and/or octave are incorrect.

G String Range	D String Range	A String Range	E String Range
B3	F4	C5	G5
A3	E4	B4	F5
G3	D4	A4	E5
F3	C4	G4	D5
E3	B3	F4	C5

- Identify the string that you are tuning.
- Find the pitch name and octave that appear on the tuner.
- Determine if the pitch needs to go lower or higher.
- Turn the peg 1/16 inch at a time.
- Each turn should move the pitch up or down one note.
- Repeat until you reach the desired pitch.
- Now use the fine tuners (see page 8)



Tips for Successful Tuning

Read these to avoid breaking strings.

- If the pitch name and octave are correct, **do not use the pegs, use the fine tuners instead.**
- When the pitch name and/or octave are incorrect and you are using the pegs to tune, **try to only turn the peg 1/16 inch at a time, moving the pitch up or down only one note at a time**.
- Always tune UP to the correct pitch. If you are tuning with the pegs and the pitch is too high, **loosen the peg until you are below the pitch before making the 1/16 inch adjustments again**.
- Tune the A, D and G strings first. Tune the E string last since it is a sensitive string. It is also the most likely to break, so simply **be very careful if you must tune the E string with the peg**.
- Do not really 100% on the tuner. **Use your ear to determine if the string is in tune.** Use familiar songs like "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" for a lower string to a higher string and "Star Spangle Banner" for a higher string to a lower string.

Trouble Shooting

When things don't go as planned.

- A peg keeps slipping ~ Pegs and their holes are tapered, so **push in slightly while turning** to keep the peg from slipping.
- The string is so loose that it does not register on the tuner ~ **Tighten the string** by turning the peg until there is enough tension to pluck the string. Continue to turn the pegs 1/16 inch at a time, to reach the desired octave range and pitch.
- A fine tuner is so loose that it might fall out or so tight that it will not turn anymore ~ **Use the peg to loosen the string a little.** Turn the fine tuner until it is about 1/4 of the way in. Use the peg to get the pitch name and octave correct, then use the fine tuner.
- The tuner says correct but the string still sounds wrong ~ **Check the tuner settings** and make sure the hertz is at A440.
- Oops, A string broke (or came completely out of the peg or fine tuner) ~ Don't worry, you will just have to **replace the string.** See Miss Laura's *How to Replace a String* guide.