Questions and answers about violin building

Bows

- My bow is losing hair!
- My bow can no longer be tightened!
- The hairs no longer properly grip the strings while playing!

Violins

- My Violin rattles!
- My varnish has become dull and gummy!
- Inexplicable scratches are occurring on the bottom of the violin cover!
- How must the bridge be positioned?
- The bridge is no longer straight after tightening the strings!
- Where must the sound post be positioned?
- Do I own a genuine Stradivarius?
- My pegs no longer hold properly. They slip and cant be turned!
- Problems in Winter
- String Studies
- Which string is recommended for my instrument?
- How did Stradivari build his intruments?

Answers

My bow can no longer be tightened!

A number of reasons can be responsible for this:

1. The hairs have stretched to the point where the frog nut reaches the limits of the slot and a further tightening could result in the stripping of the relatively soft brass tension screw. You can determine whether the hair length in fine by completely unscrewing the tension screw, removing the frog and pulling the hairs to their complete length. Now it can be seen if there is sufficient room in the slot for an additional tightening.
2. If the tension screw keeps loosening so that it is not possible to tighten the bow properly, the bow manufacturer did improper work. The hole in the stick and the screw must have the same length. Otherwise the screw cannot fasten as it doesnt touch the bottom of the hole. A violinmaker can choke the hole so that the screw can no longer loosen.

To get a better look at the mechanics, here is a drawing of the frog's cross section:

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