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 is losing hair!

Special diligence is required in caring for the hairs of your bow.

The thicknesses at the head and the frog of a bow is very slight and cannot withstand additional pressure.

After the hairs are bundled, they enter the frog where a wooden wedge is used to fill any spaces. Another wooden plug locks the hair into the head at the other end of the bow.

No glue is used and the wooden wedges must have a perfect fit.

A wooden wedge that does not fit properly cannot only cause all of the hairs to fall out at once, but can, as a worst case, also cause the head and the frog to crack. This probably can no longer be repaired.

It is important that you trust your instrument to a qualified violin maker only. When your newly re-haired bow is returned to you, have a good look at the critical areas and point out any problems immediately!

Last update on 2011-01-19 by Haat-Hedlef Uilderks.

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