

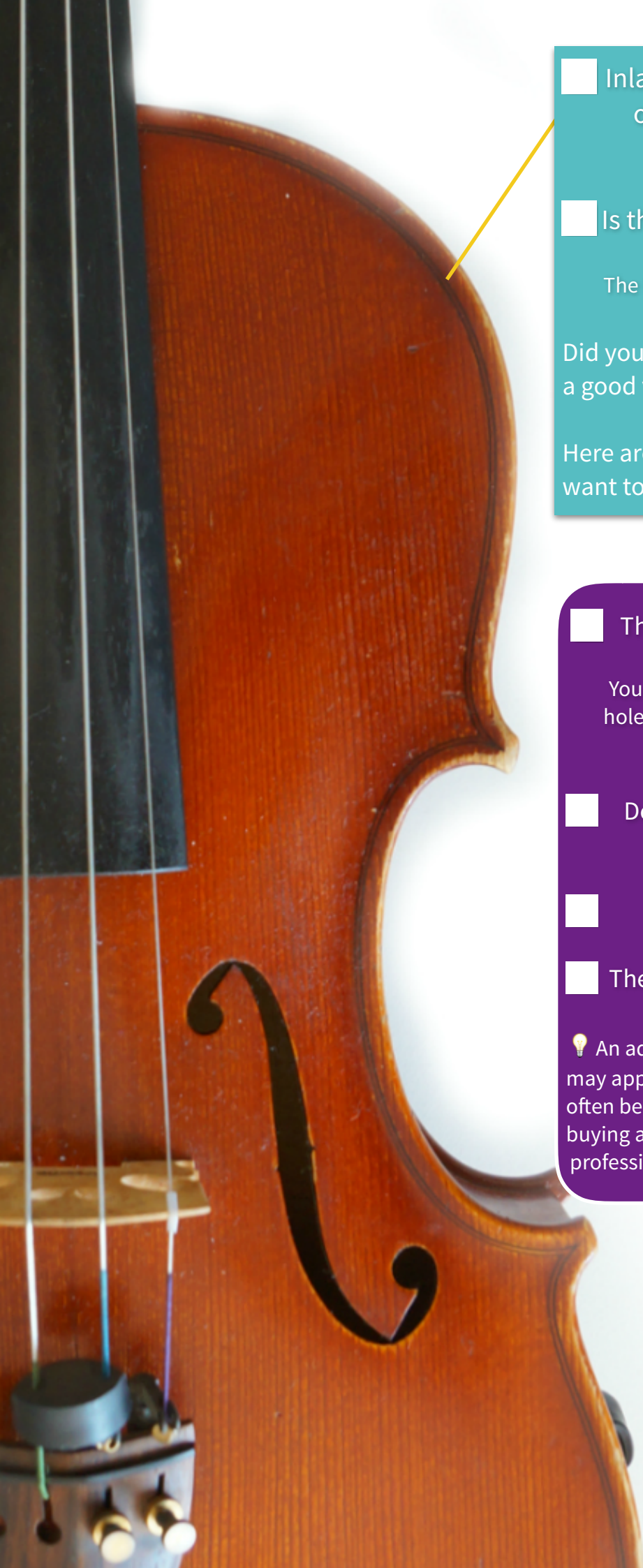
Mini Guide: Buying an Acoustic Violin

what to look for when buying a violin

Basic Checklist

- ☐ The pegs turn without any resistance and hold the string easily.
- ☐ No part in the violin is made out of plastic. Check the chin rest, pegs, fingerboard and tailpiece.
- ☐ You are able to press down the string comfortably.
If not, the strings probably lie too high above the fingerboard
- ☐ The strings have even spacing.
- ☐ The violin is made out of solid wood.
- ☐ Try to play a few notes on several strings: is it easy to switch from string to string without hitting other strings?
To check if the bridge is nicely curved.
- ☐ Make sure the fine tuners turn without any resistance.
If you are a beginner I recommend buying a violin with 4 fine tuners.





☐ Inlaid purfling (the black stripe) is made out of wood and not painted on the instrument

☐ Is the violin the right size? As a grown-up, you'll need a 4/4 violin
The length of a 4/4 violin is about 23 inches/59 cm.

Did you check all boxes? In that case, you found a good violin for beginners that will last you.

Here are some other factors that you might want to consider:


Signs of quality

☐ The violin is hand built and the maker of the violin has a good reputation
You can often find a label inside the (usually) left f hole in the violin or find information on the bridge.
Warning: many labels are fake!

☐ Detailed carving on the scroll and/or on other parts of the instruments

☐ Symmetry in all parts of the violin

☐ The price & sound reflect the quality of the violin

 An advantage of buying a quality violin, is that they may appreciate in value over time. A quality violin can often be sold for the same price or more years later. For buying a quality violin, I recommend getting help of a professional violinist.

Personal Aspects

☐ Do you enjoy the sound of the instrument?

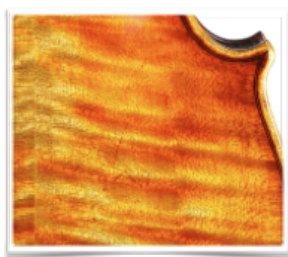
☐ Do you like the way the violin looks?

☐ Do you feel comfortable playing the instrument?

Kinds of woods 🌲 🌿

Body of the Violin

There are many different kinds of woods that violins are made from. Getting a violin with a body made out of maple and spruce is generally a safe option - most violins are made out of these materials. There are different qualities in spruce and maple though, so some violins made out of the same material may sound way better than others. This also explains why the price of two violins made out of the same materials can vary. Make sure to never buy a violin made out of plywood - it gets easily damaged and the tone is much worse. In the long run, you'll probably end up spending more money to repair the violin (or you'll need to buy a new one) Many cheap violins are made out of plywood. Generally, look for a violin that is 'striped' in the back instead of plain.



striped



plain

Fingerboard

Ideally, the fingerboard is made out of black ebony. This wood doesn't leave grooves on the fingerboard, so you won't get intonation problems in the future. Cheaper violins might be made out of other kinds of woods that got painted black. Over time, you will see the original color of the wood appear when playing these violins, which may look strange.

I hope this little guide helped you make the right decision about which violin to buy. If you still have any questions about buying violins, just write me and I'll help you where I can!