

Instrument Purchasing Tips

1. Make a budget plan. You will need to be able to tell the store how much you are willing to spend so that they will only pull instruments in that price range. Remember that the instrument is priced separately and not as a “package”. The bow and case are all separate items.
2. Make sure you are able to play each instrument so that you are able to compare the feel and the sound of each one.
3. Make sure that you are playing carved instruments and not factory made ones.
4. Ask if they have a payment plan or if you have any rental credits that could go toward it.
5. I would encourage asking one of your orchestra teachers to go with you to try instruments out, or if you are able to take a few of the home to work with for a while, ask us (and your private teacher if you have one) to play them as well. The more input, the better.
6. Remember, the bow is half of your instrument, so you need to try out several of those as well.
7. Please contact your insurance company as you would with any expensive purchase.
8. Feel free to call with any questions before you start this adventure. It is a very time consuming project and you should take the time.

Suggested Stores for Instrument Purchase

This is a partial listing of music stores in the area that sell string instruments. This list is for informational purposes only and does not necessarily indicate a recommendation. If you have stores to add to this list, please contact us.

Please call the stores ahead of time to set up an appointment.

Micahel Becker Fine Violins
28 Third Street, Park Ridge
847-823-5490

Austin's Violin Shop
316 Wheeler Rd, Sugar Grove
630-466-7562

Seman Violins
4447 Oakton St, Skokie
847-674-0690

Quinlan and Fabish Music
291 Montgomery Rd., Montgomery
800-637-6872

Or
6827 High Grove Blvd, Burr Ridge
630-654-4111

Kagan and Gaines Music
7655 W. Roosevelt Rd., Forest Park
708-771-2152

Ecklund's Master Hand Violin
611 W. Front Street, Wheaton
630-665-4290

Kenneth Stein Violins
172 N. York St., Elmhurst
630-782-0273

A440
2222 W. Roscoe, Chicago
773-348-4949

William Harris Lee and Co.
410 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago
800-447-4533