



Making your box violin or viola

- Have your child measured by your teacher for the correct size box.
- Cut a cardboard box to fit the exact dimensions for the appropriate size box. (See chart below – measurements are in inches.)

Instrument size	Width	Depth	Length
1/16 size	5"	1"	4 ½"
1/10 size	5 ½"	1"	5"
1/8 size	6"	1 1/8"	5 ½"
1/4 size	6 ½"	1 ¼"	6"
1/2 size	7"	1 3/8"	6 ½"
3/4 size	7 ½"	1 3/8"	7"
Full size	8"	1 ½"	7 ½"

- Attach a wooden paint stick or ruler, approx. 12" long, to the *inside* of the top of the box. Attach it extremely firmly with tape and/or a glue gun so that the ruler is immobile and will stay that way.
- Stuff the box with sheets of newspaper, constantly pressing them down to compact them. The box must be firm throughout. (You are trying to approximate the feel and weight of a real violin or viola). Most small size instruments weigh between 6 and 9 ounces.
- Tape the box together well.
- Cover the box with a beautiful, bright solid color of contact paper. You can use any kind of paper and cover it with clear contact paper or even use clear packing tape, so it will last longer. Covering it with strips of colored duct tape will also work.
- Decorate the box with stickers to please your child. The most important sticker is on the top of the box where the paint stick extends from the box. This will be your child's focal point when practicing with the box.
- Put your child's name on one side of the box with markers or stickers.
- Attach the shoulder rest/sponge with a rubber band.
- You may make a "case" for your box and practice bow. (A fabric bag with a drawstring top works well to hold both the box and the bow.)
- Enjoy learning with your box!

