

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. How strong are the cables?

The cables have a 40 pound breaking strength. This is more than enough strength to hold the string which is normally 8.7 to 19 pounds of tension. A string will normally break at about 15-25 pounds of tension. Therefore, the cables are significantly stronger than the strings. The thinner cables increase the elasticity of the string, which enhances the sound and playability.

### 2. How do I use a mute?

A rubber mute can be used, but you will find the additional vibrations coming from the viola may shake the mute when it is not used and create unwanted noise. Many players prefer the sound of the traditional ebony mute with this tailpiece.

### 3. How do I use fine tuners?

In order to minimize the mass of the tailpiece and reduce the potential for wolf tones, traditional fine tuners are not used with this tailpiece. Some players choose to just use traditional pegs and others use Wittner Geared Pegs<sup>®</sup> or Knilling Perfection Pegs<sup>®</sup>. Either of these pegs are great companions to the Marvin Tailpiece. Another option is to use the kind of fine tuner used on the Chinese string instrument, the erhu.

### 4. Do I have to use the Velcro<sup>®</sup> buffer?

Some players do not use the Velcro<sup>®</sup> buffer which results in a close to invisible tailpiece. You may find that some or all of the buffer is needed in order to reduce unwanted sound.

### 5. What adjustments can be made?

Besides changes to the buffer, the sound of the instrument can be adjusted by adding weights to the string or cables using wolf eliminators. Your luthier can assist with these adjustments.

## Greater sound and sustain

- Less mass/weight muting the vibration of the bridge
- Single cable across the saddle does not stabilize the bridge allowing freer movement and vibration.
- Greater elasticity of strings allow freer bridge movement and vibration.

## Faster bow response

- The bridge comes to full vibration faster because tailpiece does not slow the response

## Reduced wolf tones

- Tailpiece buffering eliminates impact on wolf tones. Wolf tones emanating from the tailpiece or strings below the bridge are eliminated.

## Softer feel when fingering

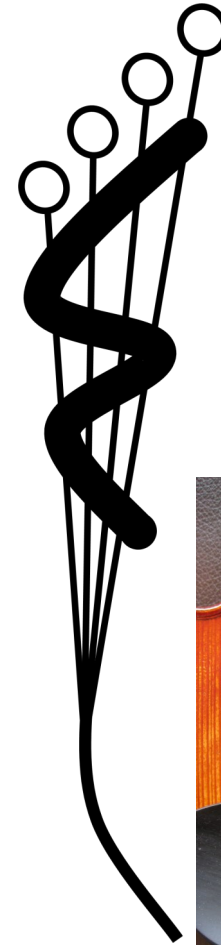
- Additional elasticity of cables allow the strings to be deflected by the left hand with less force. The tension of the strings is not different, just the elasticity (ability to stretch).

# Marvin Tailpiece

## Viola

15 to 17" Size

For enhancing the sound and playability of the Viola.



Marvin  
Tailpieces



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## Installation Instructions

### Parts included:

- 1 cable tailpiece
- 2 Velcro® pieces

### Warning:

*Replacing the tailpiece will require you to remove all tension from the strings. This may cause the sound post to fall. If you are unable to set a sound post or do not have tools available to do so please, have a luthier install this tailpiece.*

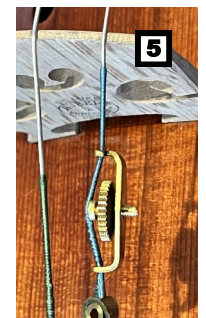
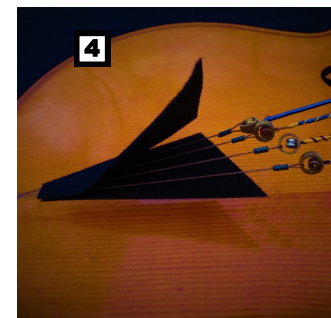
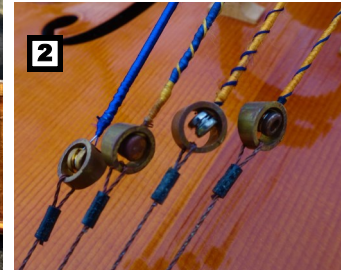
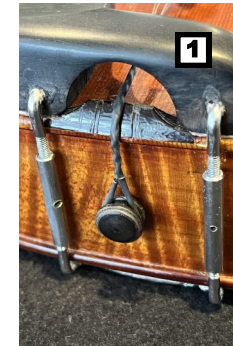
### Preparation:

Remove the old tailpiece. Strings should be removed from their pegs.

### Installation:

1. Install the loop end of the cable tailpiece around the end button collar so it rests in the groove meant for the tailpiece cable. [pict. 1]
2. Untangle the individual string cables so they run in a straight line from the top of the braid to where they will attach to the string. The cables are of different lengths so the string holder rings will not touch each other. You can insert a string or wire tie through the rings temporarily to keep them aligned.
3. Align the tailpiece cable from the endpin and over the middle of the saddle. This alignment will need to be verified prior to applying string tension to the tailpiece. The braided section of the tailpiece should wrap around the saddle and continue past the saddle before the braided cables separate at the crimp.
4. Install one string at a time. The C string attaches to the longest cable and the A string attaches to the shortest cable. (this can be reversed per player preference) Insert the cable through the hole in the string holder rings so the ball end of the string ends up inside the ring. [pict. 2]
5. Tighten the string carefully to partial tension making sure that the bridge, string holder ring, end button loop and braided section of the cable are in correct position. [pict. 3]

6. Repeat for the other 3 strings, being careful to avoid twisting or tangling of the cables.
7. After verifying alignment of tailpiece and bridge one more time, tighten the strings to pitch.
8. Next, apply the Velcro® tailpiece. The buffer consists of two pieces of Velcro®. Separate and lay out the Velcro® pieces to determine where they will be installed. [pict. 4]
9. The cables will be sandwiched between the Velcro® pieces. The back piece of felt is lined up first. Align it carefully into the desired position. Its width should extend slightly beyond the cables.
10. The top Velcro® piece is then applied on top of the cables and lined up with the bottom piece, sandwiching the cables between. Assure a snug connection between the Velcro® pieces by squeezing them with your fingers.
11. The Velcro® buffer can be trimmed prior to application into various shapes using sharp scissors. Common shapes include smooth or sharp cornered zig-zags in a snake-like shape down the tailpiece. Do not do any trimming with the Velcro mounted to the cables to avoid cutting a cable with the scissors. Be sure the resulting shape contacts all cables in at least two points to reduce any unwanted vibrations from the cables.
12. Installation is complete.
13. Tip: For fine tuning needs, consider using Wittner Geared Pegs® or Knilling Perfection Pegs®. Another option is to use fine tuner used on the Chinese string instrument, the erhu. [pict. 5]



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