

What Size Instrument?

Orchestra instruments come in smaller sizes to make it easier for children to learn to play. An instrument that is too big can be nearly impossible to play, while one too small may not produce the best tone and technique. Determining the size of the instrument is easy!

Follow the recommendation of your child's orchestra director or private teacher first!

To size a violin or viola player: With the left arm fully extended, palm up, and a yardstick or tape measure under the chin to simulate a violin, record the measurement in the center of the palm.

To size a cello player: With the left arm fully extended, palm down, and a yardstick or tape measure under the armpit, record the length at the tip of the middle finger.

To size a bass player: Bases are big, so to get the right size, we go by the total height of the player. Starting at the floor use a tape measure to measure all the way to the top of the player's head.

Violin, Viola & Cello Sizing Chart

| From | Up To | Violin | Viola | Cello |
|-----------------|---------|--------|-------------------|-------|
| Under 14" | 14" | 1/32 | - | 1/8 |
| 14" | 15 3/8" | 1/16 | - | 1/8 |
| 15 3/8" | 17" | 1/10 | - | 1/4 |
| 17" | 18 1/2" | 1/8 | - | 1/4 |
| 18 1/2" | 20 3/8" | 1/4 | 11" | 1/2 |
| 20 3/8" | 22 1/4" | 1/2 | 12" | 1/2 |
| 22 1/4" | 23 5/8" | 3/4 | 13" | 3/4 |
| 23 5/8" or more | Or More | 4/4 | 14" | 4/4 |
| 24 7/8" | 25 7/8" | - | 15" | - |
| 25 7/8" | 26 3/8" | - | 15 1/2" | - |
| 26 3/8" | 27 1/4" | - | 16" | - |
| 27 1/4" | Or More | - | 16 1/4" or larger | - |

Bass Sizing Chart

| From | To | Size |
|-----------|-----------|------|
| Under 48" | 48" | 1/8 |
| 48" | 54" | 1/4 |
| 54" | 66" | 1/2 |
| 66" | Or taller | 3/4 |

If your child falls in between two sizes, please select the smaller of the two