

*mezzo-forte*

Fine Carbon Fiber Stringed Instruments

english



# German Musical Instruments Award



## German Musical Instruments Award

The German Musical Instruments Award is given by the German Ministry of Trade and Energy. Now in its 25th year the award honours and promotes the art of German musical instrument making.

In 2015 our Carbon Fiber Violin „Design Line“ was the first carbon fiber instrument to win this prestigious award; fending off competition from 22 master violin makers.

In a three part selection process the instruments were judged on their craftsmanship, acoustic measurements and, most importantly, their overall tonal quality.

We regard this award as an acknowledgement of our pioneering work and as motivation to continue on our ground-breaking path.



Carbon Fiber Violin „Design Line“  
mezzo-forte Stringed Instruments.

# Carbon Fiber

## Carbon Fiber – A fascinating material!

In the last 20 years, no other material has experienced such a meteoric rise as carbon fiber. Carbon fiber parts, with their inherent strength-to-weight ratio and durability are now an integral part of the car, aviation or aerospace industries. Combined with its futuristic appearance carbon provides us with a fascinating material.

Carbon fiber is enjoying increasing acceptance in the music industry; excellent quality carbon bows have established themselves on the market – something not thought possible 15 years ago.

Carbon fiber stringed instruments have until now only been regarded as a niche product. The time has come to end a 300 year period of stagnation. Development and progress can be seen in all aspects of daily life: Why not in instrument making? Does wood have a soul? Is it because it's always been done this way? Or is it what people may think when seeing a black violin?

Surely these are all hollow arguments. We do not want to make traditional instruments superfluous. Our motivation is rather to open up new possibilities to musicians with complimentary products providing alternatives that were not previously available.

Many years of hard work and commitment have gone into developing our instruments. We believe we are providing a real alternative – not a replacement. Rather than resting on our laurels we are continuing, helped by customer feed-back, to develop and improve; a fundamental part of our philosophy.



Be inspired by these new and fascinating instruments; by their balanced sound, projection and unrivaled response. Making music easy!

Forget concerns about your instrument being damaged whilst travelling, or customs issues regarding banned materials, sometimes found on wooden instruments. Play where and when you want, indoors or outside, in any climate, in any country and enjoy a new and unrivaled playing experience!

Have fun!

Dr. Jörg Kleinalstede





## 100% Quality made in Germany

We started in 2002, providing wooden instruments for music schools, school orchestras and young students.

That was the beginning. mezzo-forte is now a company of highly skilled craftsmen working to exacting industrial standards. Crafting high-quality instruments from start to finish – made in Germany. That is mezzo-forte today.

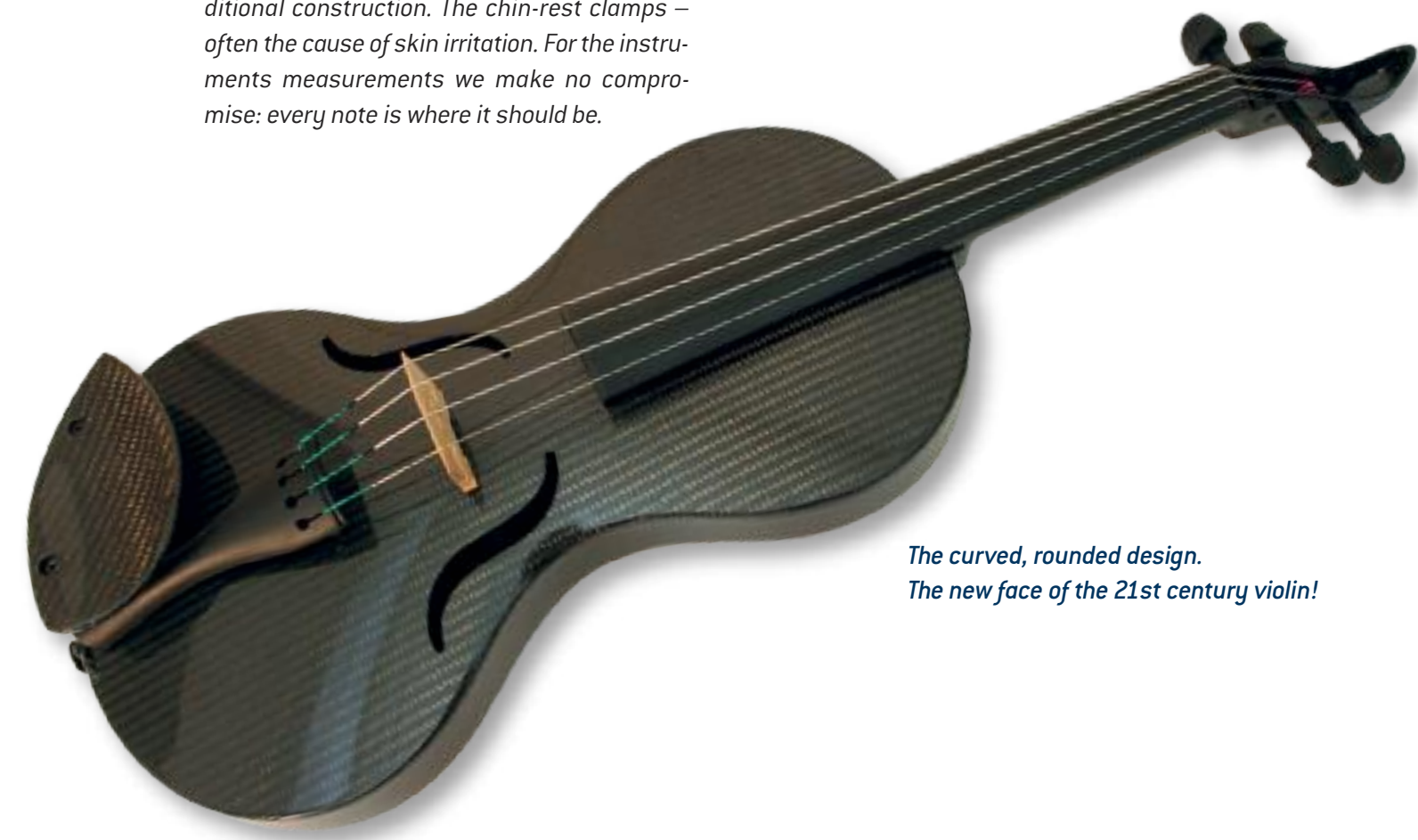
Every instrument is individually numbered and is guaranteed with a certificate of authenticity.



## The Violin The Design Concept

*The violin may look unusual: Black, curved, without frills. But it remains a violin.*

*Our design concept is simple: To do away with anything we don't need. The scroll – the luthier's signature, with no tonal influence. The corners – only necessary for traditional construction. The chin-rest clamps – often the cause of skin irritation. For the instruments measurements we make no compromise: every note is where it should be.*



*The curved, rounded design.  
The new face of the 21st century violin!*

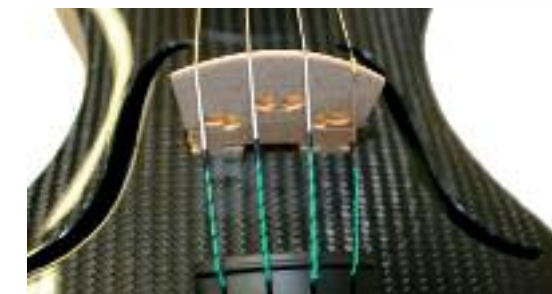
## Details The Fingerboard

*A newly developed material from Flaxwood – our Finnish partners. Dark and hard like ebony. Smooth to the touch and perfectly shaped – and helping to preserve our natural resources. The decisive feature being the fingerboard will not warp – thus making it ideal for use with carbon fiber.*



## The Bridge and Soundpost

*Here we stick with tradition – there is nothing to beat a top-quality wooden bridge. Using a traditional bridge allows a luthier to carry out fine adjustments to the instrument.*



## The Pegs

*If only everyone knew how easy tuning is with the Wittner fine tuning pegs. No slipping, no twisting under pressure. Just a gentle turn of the peg. Modern, user-friendly technology that's great to use.*



## The Hybrid Line

*Turn the amplifier on, connect the violin and you can fill a stadium with sound. It's simple and effective. The built-in pick-up system delivers an accurate, natural reproduction of the instruments sound whilst not effecting its acoustic qualities. Whether you are playing jazz, rock, folk or classical – with a Hybrid Violin everything's possible.*

## The Sound

*Benefit from the excellent response and tonal balance. Warm bass and brilliant treble – these are the criteria we apply to our instruments. Each will have a subtle difference in tone; they are, after all, hand made and tonal adjustments can be made according to individual requirements.*

## The Bass bar

*Yes, a carbon fiber instrument needs a bass bar. It gives warmth to the lower strings and helps to stabilise the top. It is made of carbon and bonded to the instrument.*





# The Viola

## The Design Concept

Much thought went into the development of both viola models. The aim being to produce a high-quality instrument for both the occasional and the professional player.

There are two models available, the 15 inch (38.5 cm) model – for the „smaller“ hand and the 16.5 inch (42.5 cm) model. These two sizes cover a broad spectrum of usage.

As with all our carbon fiber instruments the emphasis is on comfort and playability, with no need for „settling in“ time.

### Individual Configuration

Put together your ideal instrument. Left or right handed, 4 or 5 strings, with or without a pick-up. The choice is yours.

Something other than the black carbon look? Choose any colour from the RAL colour chart or try the unique „Orchestra Line“.



4 String Carbon Viola „Design Line“.

# Details

## The Measurements

The large 16.5 inch viola has a 16 inch string length and thus offers the optimal synthesis of the two; the rich tone of the large viola and the comfort and playability of the smaller size.

## The Fingerboard

A newly developed material from Flaxwood – our Finnish partners. Dark and hard like ebony. Smooth to the touch and perfectly shaped – and helping to preserve our natural resources. The decisive feature, however, is that the fingerboard will not warp – thus making it ideal for use with carbon fiber.

## The Pegs

Our violas are fitted with reliable Wittner fine tuning pegs.



## The Hybrid Line

Turn the amplifier on, connect the viola and you can fill a stadium with sound. It's simple and effective. The built-in pick-up system delivers an accurate, natural reproduction of the instruments sound whilst not effecting its acoustic qualities.

## The Sound

Benefit from the immediate response and tonal balance. A powerful C string is the criteria by which to judge a viola. The excellent resonating properties of carbon fiber means both models have this quality in abundance.

## The Chin rest

The bolted chin rest is an integral part of our design concept with the added benefit of eliminating skin irritation often caused by the standard nickel chin rest clamp that we do not require. The instruments are fitted with a Guarneri chin rest. We can provide other models, eg. Teka or Flesch.



## Individual Configuration

The „Bass Viola“ for example. An instrument with a bass range breaking into the realms of the cello. Perhaps an unrealistic challenge for a traditional instrument – with carbon fiber eminently possible.





5 String Carbon Fiber Cello,  
high E „Orchestra Line“ .

## The Cello

### The Design Concept

Here the instrument is reduced to its simplest form. A cello without corners may appear unusual but simply shows the essential shape of the body; the acoustic „heart“ of the instrument.

### Perhaps something a little different?

For some, the shiny black appearance of our instruments is not enough – they want more! We can finish using any colour from the RAL colour chart. The stylized wood effect of the „Orchestra Line“ or perhaps an individual design.

The possibilities are endless.



## Details

### The Measurements

The Cello is made using standard measurements. Players will feel immediately comfortable finding all positions as they should. Playability guaranteed.

### The Bridge and Soundpost

Both bridge and soundpost are finished traditionally.

All our carbon instruments are fitted with Wittner fine tuning pegs and a Wittner composite tailpiece. Fine tuners are available. The cello comes with a carbon end pin.



### The Sound

Players immediately feel comfortable when playing our carbon cello for the first time. They appreciate the warm, balanced sound and the precise response in all positions. No fighting for the tone, no struggle with the bow, just the sheer ease of playing. Making music easy!



The modern, stylized F-hole.

### The Finish

The surface finish is very robust but, of course, damage can occur. A clean cloth will quickly restore the instrument's sheen whilst a little car polish will help to remove larger scratches and have the instrument gleaming again.

### The 5 String Model

Play Bach's 6th Solo suite without „breaking a finger“. The 5 string cello, high E is the perfect solution. Also available as a low F model.

All our instruments are available as 5 string models.



### On the Road

Travelling and touring is made simple with a carbon cello. Booking an extra seat on the plane is a thing of the past. Simply check it in with your baggage and pick it up at your destination. Less cost, less stress.



# Technical Details



	Violin	Viola	Cello
Size	4/4	15", 16.5" Body length	4/4
Body	two piece, layered carbon fiber. Strengthened at upper and lower blocks.		
Fingerboard	Spruce fiber composite Injection moulded	15" Spruce fiber composite 16.5" Ebony	Spruce fiber composite
Nut	Composite		
Lower saddle	Integrated in body		
Pegs	Wittner fine tune, Size: S or M	Wittner fine tune, Size: M	Wittner fine tune, Size: S or M
Chin-rest	Guarneri ebony or Teka carbon (surcharge)	Guarneri ebony	-
Bridge	Maple, Despiaux, Aubert or Milo Stamm Royal (surcharge)		
Soundpost	Spruce or Anima Nova (patentpending, Carbon fiber, adjustable, surcharge)		
Bass bar	Carbon fiber		
Strings	Pirastro Evah Pirazzi, Evah Pirazzi Gold (surcharge)	Evah Pirazzi, Evah Pirazzi Gold (surcharge)	Pirastro Passione A+D, Pirastro Chromcor G+C, Pirastro Evah Pirazzi (surcharge), Pirastro Evah Pirazzi Gold (surcharge)
Endpin	Rockinger, screwed	Rockinger, screwed	Carbon/Composite
Tailpiece	Wittner composite (optionally with fine-tuners)		
Lacquer	2 Component		
Proof of Authenticity	Laminated serial number, non removable		
Hybrid	ANS (made in Germany), modified system with 1/4" Carpenter Jack	ANS (made in Germany), modified system with 1/4" Carpenter Jack	ANS (made in Germany), modified system with 1/4" Carpenter Jack
5-String	C String D'Addario Helicore	E String D'Addario Helicore	E String or F String D'Addario Helicore
Colour variations	RAL Colour chart		



Carbon-Trio

Carbon-Violin



Carbon-Viola



## Carbon-Cello



## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

**Q: Why do I need a carbon instrument?**

A: There are many reasons. Firstly, carbon is strong and more stable than wood, making the instruments more robust and able to withstand rough treatment. They are not effected by varying climatic conditions, making them ideal for travelling and for playing outside. And there is the design aspect; the sleek, modern design – a real eye-catcher.

**Q: Why are the instruments black?**

A: Carbon fiber is a black material!

**Q: Are the instruments painted?**

A: The „DesignLine“ is coated with a clear lacquer to protect the surface and to allow re-polishing.

**Q: Why don't the instruments have corners and a scroll?**

A: We do not need the corners for the construction of the instrument. Our design concept was to reduce the instrument to its essential elements.

**Q: Do the instruments have a bass bar and soundpost?**

A: Yes. A carbon bar and a spruce soundpost.

**Q: Why are the soundpost and bridge not made of carbon?**

A: For two reasons. Firstly, it allows the customer, or rather, his or her luthier to undertake fine adjustments to the set-up. Secondly, the traditional set-up has tonal advantages.

**Q: Why don't the instruments have fine tuners?**

A: We use Wittner fine tuning pegs. These make tuning quick, simple and easy. We can fit fine tuners on request.

**Q: Do the cellos have wolf-tones?**

A: The wolf-tones at F and F# are there but less noticable.

**Q: Do the violins have wolf-tones?**

A: There is an occasional mild wolf in the 7th position b flat on the G string.

**Q: Is a carbon fiber instrument lighter than a wooden instrument?**

A: No. The balance is slightly different. The body is a little heavier, the peg-box a little lighter, giving the instrument a good balance.

**Q: So how do they sound?**

A: We have demonstration videos on Youtube. These can be seen on our Youtube channel: „mezzofortegermany“. Generally it can be said the instruments sound full and warm and are well balanced with an excellent response.

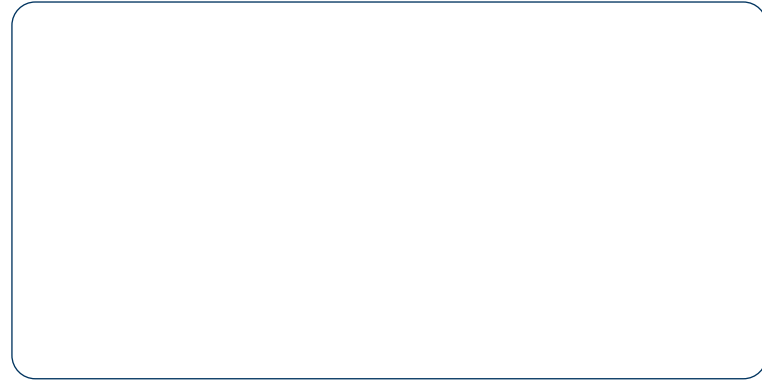
**Q: Do the instruments require a special case?**

A: Any standard case can be used.

**Q: Can the instruments withstand high temperatures?**

A: Temperatures up to 55°C are no problem. Temperatures above that, such as the inside of a car in summer should be avoided.





***mezzo-forte***

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Stringed Instruments

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