

True Note Music hopes that these guidelines will make starting the journey to learning to play either violin or viola a bit less confusing. These guidelines were created to give the parent a basic understanding of what each student needs to get started and a bit more information so that the parent can make an informed decision as to what to buy and which music store to rent an instrument from.

Please always feel free to ask questions.

## *Before you Begin:*

A guide to shoulder rest, music and instrument options



### **True Note Music**

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Before you start playing, all student will need:

1. Shoulder Rest

This can be a Kun, Bonmusica or any other rest. The most important consideration is comfort. Cost and being able to use on multiple instrument sizes is also important. Most shoulder rests are only slight adjustable. See below table for exceptions to that rule.

Kun Shoulder Rests	Bonmusic Shoulder Rests
Model: ORINGAL ONLY	Model: N/A
Directions: Kun original shoulder rest legs can be switched around still screw on to shoulder rest. Thus a FULL size Kun can be made to fit any size instrument.	Directions: Generally, Bonmusician shoulder rests can be bent slightly to fit either the next size smaller or larger. Thus, a ¾ size can be made to fit a ½ size or a full size.
Benefits: A full size Kun with a switched around leg will actually help support an instrument on a student's shoulder better... because it is longer.	Benefits: Bonmusica's are made our of bendable aluminum, therefore making them more comfortable for students to use.

2. Lesson Music

From experience, I have determined that a mixture of learning materials is best. See below for details.

Suzuki Concepts	Traditional Concepts	What inspires you
Suzuki Book One	All for Strings Book One	True Note will print out and bring to lessons as needed or requested
The Suzuki series stresses position and offers more complicated music to play earlier in the learning process.	All standard books emphasize note reading. The All for Strings series is my favorite: the position pictures are good and note reading directions clear.	I always have my favorite pieces that are not found in books, ranging from ethnic to eclectic. Asking me for music is always encouraged. If I can hum it, I can write it out for you to play.

3. Instrument Rentals

You are always welcomed to rent from any vendor you feel best meets your needs. Keep in mind:

Monthly Rental Price	Renting to Own	Shop Inventory available
Monthly rentals start at very little if that shop is running a promotion to about #30/month. Check to see what is included within the rental and how it is billed. Usual rental periods are 3 months to 6 months to school calendar year.	Most shops have a Rent to Own program. Generally, the rental term is 2 years before a decision has to be made re buying an instrument. <b>A good rule of thumb is to never buy an instrument until your child has reached the full size level</b> (unless you have other siblings that want to play). So if the shop you are rening from has a 2 year Rent to Own period and your child is starting violin lessons in 4 <sup>th</sup> grade, most likely the child will not be ready for a full size instrment until 8 <sup>th</sup> grade and the Rent to Own program becomes unusable.	If you do want to participate in a Rent to Own program, it is important to make sure the shop you are renting from actually has instruments that you want to buy. Many do not have professional level string instruments. Also important to check is that your Rent to Own monies can be applied to any instrument in the shop. Many shops do not allow this. The last item to check is how much of your Rent to Own monies will be applied to what price instrument Most shops require that the instrument purchase price be 200% of the accrued Rent to Own monies.