

Violin / Viola Sizing

The best way to determine the appropriate size instrument for your child is to follow the recommendation of their orchestra teacher. If you are not able to do this follow the steps below.

To size a student for a violin/viola, using a yardstick you need to measure the number of inches from their neck to the middle of the left-hand palm. The arm must be fully extended and raised perpendicular to the body, just like they would hold a violin. Once measured, use the chart below to determine the corresponding size violin / viola.

Another way to size a student is to use the actual violin / viola as the sizing tool. Place the instrument under their chin, like they would to play it, then have them fully extend their arm and wrap their hand around the scroll of the instrument (so they are looking at the fingertips of their left hand). If their fingers wrap around the scroll completely, then they are ready for that size instrument. If not, try a smaller size.

As a general rule, if either measurement suggests that your student is between sizes, it's usually safe to select the smaller size.

Fractional Size Measurements

Violin	Neck to middle of palm
4/4	23 5/8"
3/4	22 1/4"
1/2	20 3/8"
1/4	18 1/2"
1/8	16 7/8"
1/10	15 3/8"
1/16	14 1/8"

Viola	Neck to middle of palm
16.5"	27 1/8"
16"	26 3/8"
15.5"	25 5/8"
15"	24 7/8"
14"	23 1/4"
13"	21 7/8"
12"	20 1/8"
11"	18 1/4"