

Lesson 2B

Learning to Place and Hold the Violin in **PLAY POSITION**
comfortably

Content

1. Please watch the video demonstration.
2. Review the Key Concepts on the following slides.

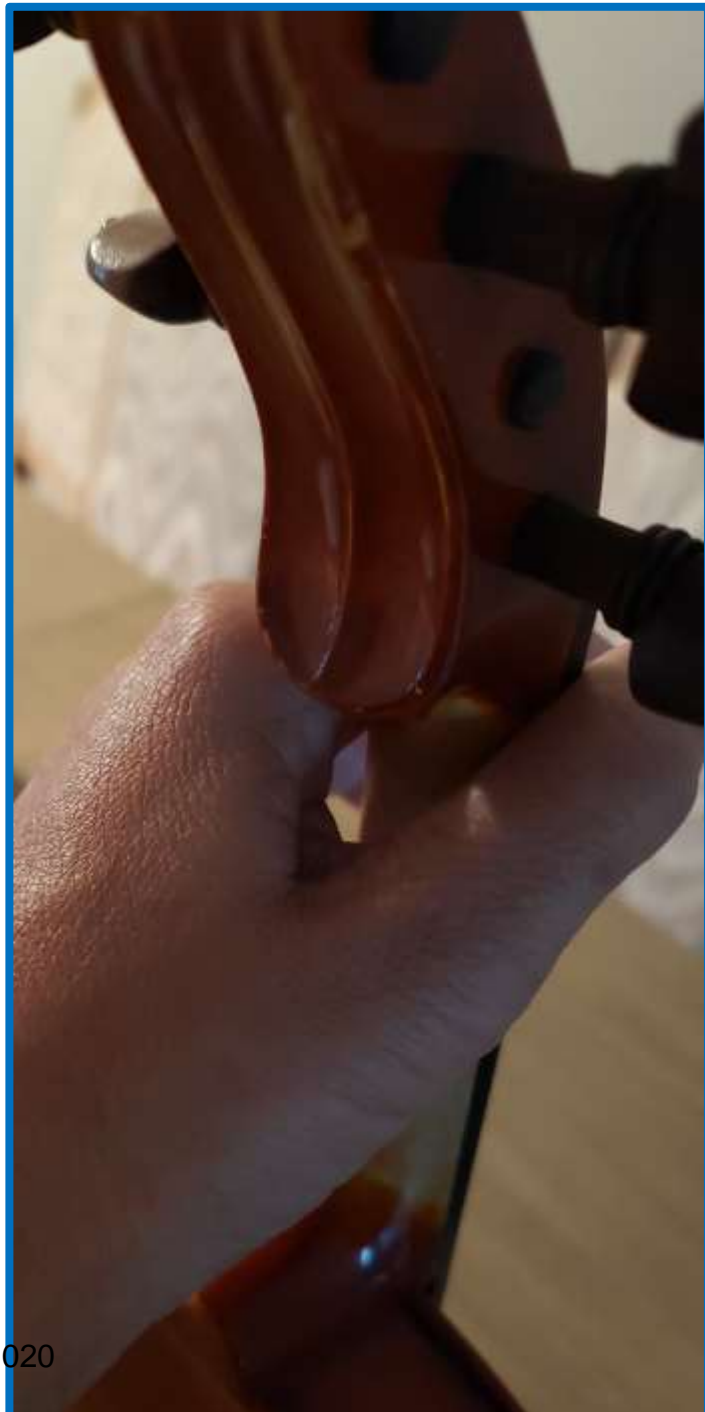
Video



Click here
to start video

Violin Placement

- The violin rests horizontally on the shoulder.
- The head leans over to the left until the side of the jaw rests in the chin rest.
- DO NOT both lean left AND tilt your head forward. This will cause a great deal of unhealthy tension in your neck!
- The first knuckle of the left thumb and the base knuckle of the first finger are ANCHOR points. Once they touch the violin neck, they rarely move (at this stage of development).
- Fingers naturally fall onto the keyboard.
- USE YOUR EARS to tell you if the fingers are in the right place.



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Things to Consider

- If you do not leave an open space between the neck of the instrument and the base of your thumb, your left hand will be feel locked in – preventing you from adding advanced techniques like vibrato and shifting.
- If you feel your head is leaning too far over, adjust the shoulder rest to fill in the gap. Shoulder rests can often be raised and lowered as well as for length.
- Fingers will need to fall on their tips for accuracy and speed.
- If your fingers do not press into the strings (creating a dent in your flesh), then your sound production will be fuzzy or squeal.