



Beginner's Toolkit: Cello

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0:08 Cello Introduction

- The Cello is one of the oldest string instruments
- Cellos can age back to the 1500s

0:51 Tightening the Bow

- The *bow* has a screw to tighten for playing and loosening when done
- Do NOT overtighten the *bow*
- Always hold the *bow* by the *frog*
 - Do NOT touch the horsehair
 - Prevent hand oils and residue from damaging the *bow*

1:53 Applying Rosin

- Rosin helps create friction to make a sound
- Never touch the rosin with your hand
- Pull the *bow* horsehair over the rosin a few times for even distribution before playing

2:39 Correct Bow Hold

- Always stay relaxed
- First, hold the *bow* with your left hand
- Then, make your right elbow low and drop the right wrist to gently grab the *frog* of the *bow*
- Keep the right thumb very round and on the curve of the *frog*
- Keep the middle finger of right hand on the metal ring of the *frog*
- All fingers must be on the *bow* at all times
 - Do NOT play with your pinky raised

3:48 Parts of the Cello

- Fingerboard*: where the left hand plays with the fingers
- Bridge*: holds up the 4 strings
- Fine tuners*: tune the strings in small increments
- Peg tuners*: tune the strings in large increments
- Scroll*: all Cellos have an interesting scroll at the very top
- F holes*: open parts of the wood where sound resonates through the holes
- End pin and screw*: used to adjust the height of the Cello

5:13 Posture

- Do NOT sit back in the chair
 - Sit halfway toward the front of the chair
- The Cello should hit about the middle of your chest
 - Do NOT lean the Cello back with the *scroll* by your head
 - Do NOT let the Cello sit too high or forward
- Adjust the *end pin* for your best height
- Squeeze the Cello with between your knees and stay loose and independent behind it

6:12 Tuning

- Use a tuner or a tuner app on a smart phone
- Strings are tuned from high to low: A, D, G, C
- It is extremely important to tune the Cello for playing

6:45 Beginning Books

- Recommended books for explaining beginning setups
 - [Essential Strings](#) by Gerald E. Anderson
 - [Strictly Strings](#) by Jacquelyn Dillon, James Kjelland, and John O'Reilly

7:28 Plucking

- Music uses a lot of Italian terms
 - Plucking is called *Pizzicato* in Italian
- First, put your *bow* down
- Then, start plucking the strings to help learn different positions and notes on the Cello

8:06 Bow Placement

- Do NOT play too close to the *fingerboard* or *bridge* on the Cello
- The best position for the *bow* is in the middle between the *bridge* and *fingerboard*

8:39 The Cello Sound

- Closest sound to the human voice

8:59 Making a Good Sound

- Always place the *bow* between the *fingerboard* and *bridge*
- Always hold the *bow* at the *frog*
- Relax the right arm
- Use enough friction on the *bow* to create the sound

9:52 Left Hand Position

- Keep the left hand in a letter "C" shape, similarly to the right hand
- The left hand fingers may hurt from pressing the strings, but that's okay!
- Try putting both hands together, with the bow!

Happy Learning!