

## Replacing a stringed instrument tailpiece assembly

Occasionally, the fine tuners built into a plastic tailpiece will malfunction. If this happens, the entire tailpiece assembly needs to be replaced. Instead of purchasing another tailpiece with built-in tuners, I suggest purchasing a tailpiece and 4 metal fine tuners. This way, if a tuner malfunctions, it can easily be replaced. When installing a new tailpiece, I also recommend replacing all of the strings, unless the strings are already new. Strings wear out after a time and should be replaced periodically.

The same types of parts are used on violas and cellos except that they are larger and a bit more expensive.

Parts needed to replace the tailpiece assembly on a violin include the following:

- Tailpiece
- Tailpiece adjuster (also known as a “tailgut”)
- 4 wide prong fine tuners

There are many online vendors as well as local music shops (Lou Rose and Sam Ash on Rt 27 in Edison) that carry these supplies. Online vendors include:

- Amazon.com
- Sharmusic.com
- WWBW.com
- Southweststrings.com

Below are some brands that I personally use, but you can buy any brand you prefer. I copied this information from Amazon.com.



The String Centre Ebony Violin Tailpiece Ebony 4/4 Size about \$5.00. Must purchase the tailgut separately



The String Centre Hill Style Violin Tailpiece Ebony 4/4 Size about \$6.50. Must purchase the tailgut separately



Wittner 4/4 Violin Ultra Composite Tailpiece with Nylon Tailgut about \$12.95



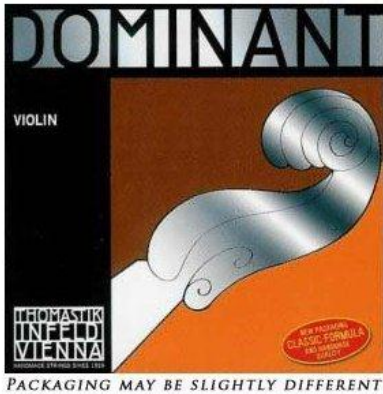
Sacconi Tailpiece Adjuster (Violin) about \$3.50. This is a very strong nylon tailpiece adjuster (tailgut) Do not buy a metal tailpiece adjuster. Some tailpieces come with a tailgut.

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Wittner Wide Stable-style Nickel-plated Fine Tuner for 3/4-4/4 Violin about \$3.00 each, need to purchase 4

Buy the “wide” style, which will accommodate all types of strings, including synthetic gut strings (such as Thomastik Dominant—see below) that have thick windings on the end of the string that will not fit into a standard width fine tuner. Never purchase plastic fine tuners! They don’t hold up as well as metal ones.



Thomastik Dominant 4/4 Violin String Set - Medium Gauge - Steel Loop-End E about \$46.00

These are professional level strings which will greatly enhance the sound of any instrument. Except for the E string, the other strings are coated in silver, which produces a more “mellow” sound than the typical steel strings found on most student instruments.