

DOUBLEDAY MUSIC

Viola - Maintenance

As well as the everyday maintenance, there are things we can do as it becomes necessary which are still just as important to the well-being and longevity of our instrument.

Cleaning the inside

- Dust can build up inside and this can affect the sound dramatically.
- To clean the inside of your viola, put half a cup of dry (uncooked!) rice into the F holes and shake or swirl the rice around inside. This loosens up the dust. Turn the viol upside down and shake the grains out, and the dust will come out along with it.
- Make sure to do this once every year or so, so the dust doesn't have a chance to build up!

Problems with fine tuners / bow screw

- If it is hard to turn the fine tuners, or to tighten your bow, unwind the screws and grab a pencil. Rub the pencil lead up and down the threads of the screws. The graphite or lead from the pencil makes them easier to turn.

Problems with pegs

- When you change a string, take the peg out and rub chalk it where it usually comes in to contact with the scroll. The chalk on the joint will make the peg easier to turn.