

## **Old Town Violins Rental Policy and Rates**

Don't throw away your rental payments; we have a very generous rental equity plan!

With our rental program, you will accumulate equity at a rate of 100% of your rental payments up to a maximum of 24 months. Then, when you are ready to purchase an instrument, your accumulated equity may be used as a down payment toward the purchase of a step-up instrument. Equity down payments cannot exceed 50% of the purchase price. Equity is earned on the rental portion ONLY, insurance and taxes are excluded, and must be used at the time of rental termination or it will be lost.

### Rates

Aspire (entry level) model violin - \$15 + \$3 insurance per month. Aspire annual rate - \$180 (\$150 + \$30 insurance).

Model 200 (intermediate) model violin - \$19 + \$4 insurance per month. Model 200 violin annual rate - \$230 (\$190 + \$40 insurance).

Model 200 (intermediate) model viola - \$24.50 + \$5 insurance per month. Model 200 viola annual rate - \$245 + \$50 = \$295.

Model 400 (Premier) model violin - \$33 + \$5 insurance per month. Model 400 annual rate - \$380 (\$330 + \$50 insurance).

Aspire models are a solid wood, hand carved, mildly flamed instrument, set up with Prelude strings and a Wittner style tuneable tailpiece. Good tone, not thin and overly bright as with many entry level instruments.

Model 200 instruments are solid wood, hand carved, moderately flamed, hand varnished, set up with Prelude strings and a Wittner style tuneable tailpiece. Tone robust and rich.

Our shop Model 400 instrument features Dominant strings, Wittner tailpiece, and beautifully flamed wood. Tone is increasingly complex and powerful.

With monthly rentals, there is a six month minimum rental term, with six months payable at the time of rental. After the initial six months, rent is payable on a month to month basis. Annual rental fees are payable in full at the time of rental.

After the first six months or the first year, depending on which rental option you have chosen, the rental fees will be automatically charged to your credit/debit card.

Rates include the violin, case, bow, shoulder rest, rosin, and polishing cloth. Though we require six months payable on the front end, we do not charge a “deposit” like many other shops do, nor do we charge any standard ‘reconditioning’ fees at termination. We charge only for repairs over and above normal wear and tear or for accessories not returned at termination. Broken strings are the responsibility of the renter, and can be ordered from Old Town Violins. When the rental is terminated, accessories not returned with the violin will be charged to the credit/debit card on file as follows – case - \$50, bow - \$50, shoulder rest - \$20, rosin - \$5. Should the instrument be lost, stolen, or damaged beyond repair, then the renter is responsible for 70% of the retail value of the outfit.

All rentals (new and size exchanges) will be charged \$15 for shipping. Shipping charges to return instruments to us are the responsibility of the renter.

If you need a larger size during the term of the rental, we will exchange to the larger size at no extra cost to you other than the shipping charge. Simply ship the violin and accessories back to us, and we will ship the new one to you. We recommend that you call us ahead of time, allowing us to be certain that we have the size you need in stock.

All rental fees and associated charges are payable only by Visa or MasterCard debit/credit card.

## **FAQ's**

Why should I continue to rent through the summer if my child only plays at school? - There are a couple of reasons. One, if the instrument is kept available to your child, he will be encouraged to play on his own. That is not possible if the violin has been turned in. Two, if you terminate the rental, even for a few months, your equity will be lost.

Should my child be taking private lessons, even if she already plays at school? - Absolutely, if at all possible. School orchestra teachers are good at what they do, but due to the number of students they have, are unable to devote sufficient one-on-one time to each student. Private lessons in addition to school instruction will ensure that your child gets the best musical education possible.

Someone gave us an old violin. Can I just use it? - You can, if it is the proper size for the player, and in good playing condition. Have it checked out here at Old Town Violins if you are in our area or at your local shop before making your decision.

How do I know what size violin my child needs? - Have your child hold his arm straight out to the side, and measure from the base of the neck to the middle of the wrist or palm.

Violin Size	Arm Length (in inches)
4/4 (Full Size)	23

3/4	22
1/2	20
1/4	18 1/2
1/8	16 1/2
1/10	15
1/16	14

Violins come in 8 different sizes: 4/4 (also called Full size), 3/4, 1/2, 1/4, 1/8, 1/10, 1/16 with 4/4 size being the biggest and 1/16 size being the smallest. Most adults use the 4/4 violin. There are a couple of uncommon sizes - the 7/8, usually used by a smaller adult who wants a full-size violin sound but whose hand might be a little small for the full size violin; and the 3/8, for the child who is out-growing the 1/4, but not yet big enough for the 1/2.

Some teachers prefer students to use the length from the neck to the wrist for measurement instead of the neck to mid-palm. The violin size determined by the neck/wrist measurement would be the size that is more comfortable for students to hold. The violin size determined by the neck/mid-palm measurement would be the biggest size students should use.

If my child is new to playing violin, wouldn't it be better to just buy a cheap one until I see if she is going to stay with it, and then rent or buy a better one? - No, not at all. Most "cheap" violins are made and set up quite poorly, to the point that even an experienced player would have trouble with them. That makes it extremely difficult for a beginner to play. Plus, they can sound terrible to mediocre, at best. If the violin is hard to play and sounds bad, that will discourage the student and make certain that she WON'T stay with it. Our rentals and violins available for purchase are set up with ease of playing and good tone in mind. Old Town Violins is an actual brick and mortar violin shop, we personally inspect thoroughly and tweak each violin before it is sent out, to ensure its playability and tone.