



PARENT'S GUIDE TO V.S.O.'s

(Violin Shaped Objects)



Violin Shaped Object
V.S.O.
Frustration Likely



Starting Right
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Starting Right: Yes, it really does matter.

Every child deserves a chance to start right. The internet is loaded with low cost, low quality V.S.O.'s (Violin Shaped Objects) that are hard or even impossible for Teachers to play, let alone a beginning student. On behalf of Teachers, violin shops, and excited beginning students everywhere, I urge parents to avoid the temptation to buy a low price violin off the internet. V.S.O.'s are the biggest complaint from string teachers across the country. NOTE: Affordable options for any budget are available from reputable string specialists - ask your string teacher for help.

What is a V.S.O.? V.S.O.'s look like a violin, but many are, or become, virtually unplayable because of innumerable structural and set-up problems. Many well meaning parents bring their V.S.O.'s to violin shops and are disappointed to find out that the repairs needed to make their instruments playable far exceed the original price.

Stepping Up: Where you start matters too.

Starting with the right violin company matters, especially if there is any chance your child may continue playing. The longer they play, the more important it is to select the right violin company. The reason is that most companies offer rental or trade-in credit towards a future purchase as the student progresses. Typically only string specialists offer the kind of selection a progressing student needs. Before you buy or rent an instrument, check out what step-up options they have for the advancing student. Again, ask your string teacher for help.



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What To Look For In A Student Violin



Instrument is setup by the company you are buying from, not setup by a factory.



Instrument is play tested and tonally adjusted just prior to shipment.

Typical repair costs to make a V.S.O. playable

Fit pegs properly - \$50-\$100

Adjust nut - \$30-\$50

Reset/replace soundpost - \$5-\$50

Replace bridge - \$30-\$75

Fingerboard repair - \$30-\$50

Repairing the neck projection - \$200 and up

New strings - \$10-\$50