

# The Leopold Auer Graded Course of Violin Playing

## Book One — Preparatory Grade

### Preliminary Instructions

#### I. A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE VIOLIN

Before taking up the Violin for actual playing, the beginner should obtain an all-round practical knowledge of the construction of the instrument, as well as the proper names of its various component parts. To this end let him take up the Violin with his left hand, compare it with the illustrations on page 2, and learn the proper name of each part as marked thereon.

#### A. OUTSIDE PARTS OF THE INSTRUMENT

The most important parts of the Violin, as shown in the illustration on page 2, consist of:

##### *The Top.*

Made of narrow or wide-grained pinewood and raised or flattened according to the form and design of the individual maker.

Important details of *The Top* include:

- The f or Sound Holes* and
- The Purfling*, delicate ornamental strips of wood near the edges of the top and back.

##### *The Back.*

Is made of maple wood.

##### *The Bouts or Sides.*

Six pieces of maple wood about one and a quarter inches wide, shaped to form the outline of the violin, and fitted in between the *Top* and *Back*. They are known as upper, middle and lower *Bouts*. The term is most used in reference to the middle *Bouts* (inward curves) which allow the bow greater access to the outer strings.

##### *The Neck.*

Made of maple wood, connects the *Scroll* and *Peg Box* with the body of the instrument.

The so-called trimmings necessary for the outside of the instrument include:

##### *The Pegs.*

To which the strings are fastened at the upper end and through the turning of which the strings are tuned to their appropriate higher or lower pitch.

##### *The Nut (or Saddle).*

A narrow piece of ebony wood, with four little grooves placed just where the *Peg Box* ends and the *Finger-Board* begins.

##### *The Finger-Board.*

A long narrow strip of ebony wood glued to the *Neck* and over which the strings are stretched.

##### *The Bridge.*

Made of maple wood, set between the *f* or *Sound Holes*, and providing a substantial rest for the strings and incidentally conveying the vibrations of the strings to the body of the instrument.

##### *The Tail-Piece.*

A piece of ebony wood the broad end of which is provided with four holes, through which the lower ends of the strings are securely fastened.

##### *The End-Pin.*

A short, thick, button-like piece of ebony set exactly between the left and right lower *Sides* of the instrument and to which the tail-piece is fastened by means of a stout piece of gut.

#### B. INSIDE PARTS OF THE INSTRUMENT

When opened the Violin in appearance resembles a shallow, empty box (see illustrations on page 3), containing nothing but:

##### *The Blocks.*

Blocks of wood to which the ends of the *Bouts* are glued; they constitute corner supports.

##### *The Bass-Bar.*

Glued against the inner left-hand side of the *Top*, beneath the G string.

##### *The Sound-Post.*

A short, round piece of pine wood standing upright between the *Top* and *Back* of the violin, generally in the vicinity of the bridge. It lends support against string pressure and also serves to convey and distribute the sound waves. It must be inserted through the "f" holes and adjusted by a special tool or setter. Finally there is:

##### *The Lining.*

Consisting of twelve small narrow strips of pine wood, running along the inner edges to strengthen the *Sides*.