

Violins



AS WITH OTHER INSTRUMENTS, THE QUALITY OF THE VIOLIN NECK AND FINGERBOARD ARE CRUCIAL. THE NECK SHOULD BE SET AT THE PROPER ANGLE, leaning back about 3° from the body of the instrument, and should have a satin finish so your hand can move easily up and down. I also check that the fingerboard is free of grooves and that it is contoured for easy fingering. The neck of each Alvarez electric violin is carefully checked for proper angle before the fingerboard is attached, and it is reshaped if necessary. Alvarez fingerboards are solid ebony, one of the hardest, smoothest woods available.

Ask a fiddler whose instrument slips out of tune, and you'll know the importance of checking the pegs and the pegbox. Traditional pegs operate solely by friction, so they must fit exactly into the pegbox for smooth and dependable operation. At Knilling String Instruments, where Alvarez electric violins are finished, the solid ebony pegs are filed and sanded by hand.



Violin 13F natural head and ebony pegs and fingerboard.

Finally I look at the finish. I prefer a natural finish myself, but I know that a lot of performers today like the great stage appearance of bright colors. I make sure it is absolutely smooth.



Violins (from top): 18FG Gold; 18FR Red; 18FIB Iceburst; 18FS Silver; 18FSC Scarlet.

