

## NS Fretted Violin Bridge Alignment Instructions

The position of the bridge on a fretted violin determines the intonation at each fret location. This can be adjusted by tilting the bridge slightly forward or back with pressure from the thumb and forefinger. Please read the following instructions before attempting to adjust the bridge.

It is recommended that the 12<sup>th</sup> fret (first octave) be used to test the intonation. First tune the open string very carefully to the correct pitch using an electronic tuner. Then press the string down just behind the 12<sup>th</sup> fret. The string should remain in tune at the octave. Frets on the violin allow for a considerable amount of vibrato when you roll your finger, so exact placement of the finger is important when you test the intonation. Ideally, the vibrato range will swing slightly above and below the designated pitch

If the pitch is sharp at the octave fret (with the finger carefully placed just behind the fret), this means that the string should be slightly longer in order to lower the pitch. Carefully push the bridge away from the neck slightly to compensate. Re-tune to test the result, readjust as needed

If the pitch is flat at the octave fret, this means that the string should be slightly shorter in order to lower the pitch. Carefully nudge the bridge toward the neck slightly to compensate. Re-tune to test the result, readjust as needed

It is generally good to start with the D string for both 4 and 5 string instruments. Once this string is right, check the others. The bridge can be rotated on the vertical axis slightly as needed to adjust the intonation of the outer strings.