

Rosin

Rosin is made from the dried sap of pine trees. It's processed into a small black or golden block, which is often referred to as a 'cake' of rosin. Don't try and eat it though!



We rub the bow hair on the block of rosin in order to make it rough and sticky. This allows the hair to grip the string, causing the string to vibrate.

A new block of rosin has a shiny surface that needs to be rubbed for a minute or two before the powdery surface appears.

Some of the cheapest rosins take even longer to open up, and with these you may find it quicker to scratch the surface in order to speed up the process!

How to rosin the bow:

- Take your bow in your right hand and the rosin in your left.
- Draw the whole length of the hair over the rosin several times, backwards and forwards with a moderate amount of pressure.

Top tips for rosinning the bow:

- If your bow is new, or hasn't been rosined before, then it will need much more rosin than usual, because it's the first time.

- Make sure the bow hairs are tightened before using the rosin. Applying rosin to loose hair is not effective and can even damage the wood of the bow.
- It's generally easier and quicker to rosin the bow if you move both hands - the hand that's holding the rosin, *and* the hand that's holding the bow.
- Don't crack the rosin! Cover the 'ferrule' (the metal part of the 'frog' at the bottom of your bow, where the hair and frog connect) with your thumb and index finger. Then you won't accidentally crack the rosin on the metal!
- Some rosin dust is likely to stick to the wood of the bow. Wipe this off gently with a soft dry cloth, before it stains the varnish of the wood.
- Try to avoid touching the hair of the bow! The natural grease of human skin can leave greasy marks on the bow hair, which will make it very difficult to play with. The hair will last much longer if you keep it clean!