

Tightening and Loosening the Bow

Each time we put the bow back into the case after playing, we need to **unwind the bow hair** using the screw at the bottom of the bow. This reduces the tension of the bow when it is in storage. We then have to **wind it back up again** when we next take it out to play.

This is important, because if you don't unwind the bow, it will gradually become warped and need to be replaced.

- Turn the screw **clockwise** to **tighten** the hair of the bow.
- Turn the screw **anticlockwise** to **loosen** the hair of the bow.

Warning! If you unwind the bow too much, the screw will pop out of the end of the bow and the hair of the bow will come away from the stick. You shouldn't ever need to do this!

If it does happen though, don't panic... Just make sure the hair is not twisted, carefully slot the end of the bow back together, and turn the screw back into place.

How much should you tighten the bow?

Rest the bow on the string. Now try putting a little bit of weight into the bow with your right arm. As you press, make sure that the hair is not touching the wood of the stick.

If it is, you probably need to tighten it a bit more, so that there is a nice springiness in the bow when you are playing.

But don't go too far. We often see bows that are **over tightened!**

When you put the bow back in the case, be careful to make sure it is resting in a position where it is not tense, bent or forced into the case.

