

string has a thicker diameter than the other strings, and the bass side of the bridge needs to be set at a slight angle toward the tail of the instrument. If the bridge is adjustable, you can fix this easily by moving it with your fingers.

Are there a few inches of instrument behind the bridge? Or does the instrument end at the bridge itself? Having a few extra inches behind the bridge on which to rest your hand or forearm can be a help.

Are all the strings over the fretboard? This may sound strange, but some traditional instruments have a very narrow fretboard, with the drone strings (the middle and the bass) parallel to the fretboard but not over any of the frets. If you're going to have strings on the instrument, you might as well be able to make notes with them, so we'd recommend a full-sized fretboard, wide enough to accommodate all the strings.

Your instrument's sound holes may be any shape. They should be large enough to let out the sound without unduly decreasing the vibration area of the top; that is, your instrument produces its sounds from the resonant vibrations of the top. The back and

