

How to transform a 16" viola into a Chincello

First, get a set of Prodigio Chincello strings

Second, be aware that the changes needed to the 16" viola body and bridge do not prevent it being changed back into a viola if you change your mind.

Third, playing technique is not exactly like a viola. The strings are necessarily heavier to produce the octave lower tones. It takes more "persuasion" to get them to sound properly. The adjustment takes about 5-10 minutes.

Thirdly, a cello bow and bass rosin are recommended to ease the additional effort needed to play

Conversion:

1) Change out the A and D strings one at a time. The corners of the bridge notches may need to be knocked down a tiny bit to keep from grabbing the string windings during tuning, but those 2 strings are generally OK

2) Remove the viola G, remove the G peg and enlarge the peg string hole to about $3/32$ ". Don't worry: if you change your mind, a regular viola G will still grip in the enlarged hole. Knock down the bridge notch corners slightly as for the A and D strings. Smooth the edges of the pegbox side of the nut groove so the windings don't catch during tuning, then mount the G string. Note; the top leader may need to be shortened about an inch. The string is fatter and takes more space with each rotation during mounting/tuning.

3) Repeat #2 for the C string.

Because the strings are steel core to try to control pitch bend, they come up to pitch VERY quickly during tuning. Using fine tuners at the tailpiece end strongly recommended.