Finding an instrument that sounds good is more rewarding to play and is a better value. The price and quality of instruments varies widely, and there are many options for "beginning" & "intermediate" level instruments, as well as considering various new or used purchase, rent or lease options. I suggest starting your search on the websites of both local stores and online sources, and comparing brand names in the various price ranges. At local stores, ask for someone to play instruments in different price ranges, for you to compare sound. Insist on better quality strings like "Dominant", not all steel strings. Better quality used instruments can be an affordable option to explore. Instruments that are crafted mostly by hand cost more, but often go up in value over time. Be sure the bow has real horsehair. Be wary of violin outfits under $200. If you buy though a mail order company or any shop, talk to them to be sure it is set up completely, with a real carved bridge and if they will do adjustments for you.

the violin channel

**Quinn Violins**
1081 21st Ave S.E., Mpls (west of Hwy 280 off Hennepin) 612-378-5470
All stringed instruments. www.quinnviolins.com

**Fein Stringed Instruments**
1850 Grand Ave St. Paul 228-0783
www.feinviolins.com

**Cadenza Music Center**
149 North Snelling Avenue (at Selby) 644-3611
Band & orchestra instruments and lesson books

**Eckroth Music**
3065 Centerpoint Dr., Roseville 651 704-9654
www.eckroth.com

**John Waddle Violins**
2032 St. Claire Ave, St. Paul 698-4692
(excellent small shop in home, call for appointment)

**House of Note**
7210 Minnetonka Blvd., St. Louis Park 952-929-0026
All stringed instruments www.houseofnote.com

**Claire Givens Violin**
1004 Marquette Avenue, Minneapolis (612) 375-0708
www.givensviolins.com

**Groth Music Company**
494 & Nicollet, Bloomington (952) 884-4772
All String and Band instruments. Rentals and maintenance plans available

**Schmitt Music Centers**
Maplewood Square, 3035 White Bear Avenue, Maplewood 770-0091
Roseville Store, 2436 Cleveland Avenue North, Roseville 636-0801

**Shar Products Inc**
www.sharmusic.com 800-248-SHAR (7427)
very reliable online & mail order shop
stringed instruments, rentals, supplies and music in Ann Arbor Michigan

**All Strings Attached**
8244 Olson Memorial Hwy (Hwy 55) Golden Valley 763-542-9542
2000 Industrial Ave S., Stillwater 651-439-8899
www.allstringsattached.com

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