

Cremona SC-500



Cremona SC-500 Premier Artist Cello Outfit

USER MANUAL

Introduction

The Cremona SC-500 Premier Artist Cello Outfit is designed for advancing students, offering exceptional tone quality and craftsmanship. This outfit includes a meticulously hand-carved cello, a Brazilwood bow, and a padded gig bag, providing a complete solution for serious students.

Key features of the SC-500 include:

- **Flamed Maple and Spruce Construction:** Hand-carved from solid flamed maple and select close-grained solid spruce for optimal tone and beauty.
- **Rich Varnish Finish:** Features a clear, hand-applied golden red-brown varnish.
- **Professional Setup:** Set up to educational standards at the Cremona workshop in the US, including a French-made Aubert bridge and US-made Anton Breton strings.
- **Quality Fittings:** Equipped with ebony fittings, an ebony fingerboard, and a lightweight composite tailpiece for easy tuning.

Product Components





The Cello: The main instrument, featuring a spruce top and flamed maple back and sides, with ebony fingerboard and fittings.







Cello Back Detail: Illustrates the beautiful flamed maple wood on the back of the cello, contributing to its aesthetic and acoustic properties.





Padded Gig Bag: A durable, well-padded bag designed for protecting and transporting the cello safely.

The outfit also includes a deluxe Brazilwood bow, essential for playing the cello.

Setup

1. **Bridge Placement:** The bridge is typically shipped uninstalled to prevent damage. Carefully place the bridge upright between the f-holes, ensuring the feet align with the inner notches of the f-holes. The bridge should be perpendicular to the cello's top, with the side facing the tailpiece slightly angled back. Ensure strings pass over the bridge grooves correctly.
2. **String Installation and Tuning:** If strings are not already installed, thread them through the tailpiece and into the pegbox. Gently tighten the pegs while pressing them into the pegbox to prevent slipping. Use the fine tuners on the tailpiece for precise tuning. Tune the strings to C-G-D-A (from lowest to highest).
3. **Rosining the Bow:** Before first use, apply rosin to the bow hair. Hold the rosin firmly and draw the bow hair across it multiple times (20-30 strokes for a new bow) until a fine white powder is visible on the hair. This provides friction for sound production.
4. **Endpin Adjustment:** Extend the endpin from the bottom of the cello to adjust the cello's height. When seated, the upper rim of the cello should be approximately level with your sternum. Secure the endpin with its locking screw.



Bridge and F-hole Area: Proper bridge placement is crucial for sound production and instrument integrity. Ensure the bridge is centered and upright.

Operating the Cello

Proper posture and technique are fundamental for playing the cello. Seek guidance from a qualified instructor for detailed

lessons.

- **Seating Posture:** Sit on the front half of a sturdy chair with your feet flat on the floor. Maintain a straight back and relaxed shoulders.
- **Holding the Cello:** Place the cello between your knees, resting the upper bout against your chest. Adjust the endpin so the C string peg is roughly level with your left ear. The cello should be stable and not require constant support from your hands.
- **Holding the Bow:** The bow hold is complex and best learned from an instructor. Generally, the thumb is bent and rests on the frog, while fingers are curved and relaxed over the stick. The weight of the arm should transfer through the hand to the bow.
- **Bowing:** Draw the bow smoothly across the strings, maintaining consistent pressure and speed. Experiment with different parts of the bow (frog, middle, tip) and different contact points on the string (closer to the bridge for brighter sound, closer to the fingerboard for softer sound).

Maintenance

Regular maintenance ensures the longevity and optimal performance of your Cremona cello.

- **Cleaning the Cello:** After each use, wipe down the cello body, strings, and fingerboard with a soft, dry cloth to remove rosin dust and fingerprints. Avoid using polishes or cleaners not specifically designed for string instruments, as they can damage the varnish.
- **Cleaning the Bow:** Wipe the bow stick with a dry cloth to remove rosin dust. Avoid touching the bow hair with your fingers, as oils can degrade its ability to hold rosin.
- **String Care:** Replace strings periodically, typically every 6-12 months depending on playing frequency, or when they lose their tone quality or become frayed. Change one string at a time to maintain bridge and soundpost stability.
- **Bridge and Soundpost:** Ensure the bridge remains upright and centered. If it leans, gently push it back into position. The soundpost inside the cello should not move; if it does, consult a luthier.
- **Storage:** Always store the cello in its gig bag or a hard case when not in use. Keep it away from extreme temperatures, direct sunlight, and high humidity.
- **Humidity Control:** Cellos are sensitive to humidity changes. In dry climates, consider using a humidifier inside the case to prevent cracks. In very humid conditions, a dehumidifier might be necessary.

Troubleshooting

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Buzzing Sound	Loose fine tuner, string not seated correctly, loose part, or bridge/soundpost out of place.	Check all components for tightness. Ensure strings are properly seated in bridge and nut grooves. Verify bridge and soundpost position. If persistent, consult a luthier.
Pegs Slipping	Lack of friction, dry pegs, or worn pegbox holes.	Push pegs firmly into the pegbox while turning. Apply peg compound (available at music stores) if needed. For severe slipping, a luthier can re-fit the pegs.
Poor Tone/Weak Sound	Insufficient rosin, old strings, incorrect bridge placement, or soundpost issues.	Apply more rosin to the bow. Consider replacing old strings. Check bridge position. If soundpost has shifted, professional adjustment is required.

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Bow Hair Not Gripping	Insufficient rosin, oily hair, or worn hair.	Apply more rosin. Avoid touching bow hair. If hair is very old or damaged, re-hairing by a professional is necessary.

Specifications

Feature	Detail
Model Number	SC-500
Size	4/4
Top Material	Select, close-grained Solid Spruce
Back & Sides Material	Well-flamed Solid Maple
Fingerboard Material	Ebony
Fittings Material	Ebony
Tailpiece	Lightweight Composite with Fine Tuners
Bridge	French-made Aubert
Strings	US-made Anton Breton
Finish	Hand-applied Golden Red-Brown Varnish
Bow	Deluxe Brazilwood Bow
Case/Bag	Well-padded Gig Bag
Item Weight	23.2 pounds
Product Dimensions	54.72 x 13.39 x 8.37 inches

Warranty and Support

Cremona instruments are crafted with quality and durability in mind. This product is covered by a standard manufacturer's warranty against defects in materials and workmanship.

For specific warranty details, product support, or to find authorized service centers, please visit the official Cremona website or contact their customer service. You can find more information and contact details on the [Cremona Brand Store on Amazon](#).

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