



Tool for Purfling Violins. By Kentigern (No. 27672),

T. S. (Leeds) writes: "Please state where a purfling tool as used for violin making can be obtained. Or give instructions for making such a tool."

A good purfling tool can be purchased from C. Panton, & Son, 24, Miller Street, Glasgow, for about 12s. 6d. To make a purfling tool, take a piece of hardwood about 4 in. long, 1½ in. broad, and ¾ in. thick, and shape it as Figs. 1 and 2. The cutter A may be made from a piece of steel about 2 in. long cut from a joiner's nail-punch. File the steel parallel, and with a thin ward file cut a groove about ⅓ in. deep in one end, forming a double cutter as Fig. 3, taking care that the over-all size is just the width of the purfling. A side view of the end is circular as shown by dotted lines. The cutter should be filed up sharp with a fine file, but will cut cleaner and keep its edge longer if tempered and set up with a thin, slip of oilstone. After the double cut (which must be done with a firm hand) is made all round the violin tables, the groove is cleaned out with a narrow chisel or a sharp bradawl. Fig. 4 is a plan of the cutter looking upwards.