



Junior Hoedownner

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Dear Junior Fiddlers,

This will not make you a better fiddler or help you enter a contest but it will tell you about your fiddle. The following information is by Beverley Conrad - used with her permission. <http://www.fiddlerwoman.com/id88.htm>

The sound post of a fiddle is that little stick of wood inside the instrument that transfers the vibration of the strings through the bridge and throughout the body of the fiddle. You can see a sound post by looking into the f-hole on the E string side of the fiddle. Is a sound post necessary? Yes. Is it necessary to have the sound post set in the right spot? Yes, It is if you want to sound good.

Sound posts are not glued into place. They are set into place by means of a special tool either homemade or store bought. It is the pressure of the top of the fiddle and the bottom that mostly hold it in place. String pressure also works some to hold it in place. Upon occasion a person might take all the strings off their fiddle at the same time. Sometimes the sound post will stay put. Sometimes it will fall over. Many of us fiddlers have had the experience of picking up an instrument and hearing a rattle within only to find that the post has fallen over.

Cold temperatures can also cause a sound post to fall. Cold shrinks the wood on the fiddle and the pressure is lost. The sound post falls over. Or the cold may cause the wood of the peg box to shrink. The pegs become loose, the strings become loose and the sound post falls over.

You should not try to play a fiddle without a sound post. . . . To be on the safe side should your sound post ever fall over, loosen the strings somewhat and get the sound post reset before you tune up.

Can you set it yourself? You can try. It takes the patience of a saint to do so for the inexperienced person, but it can be done. In this article Beverley writes - I won't go into how to set a sound post. She writes, I can tell you that although you could try to do this yourself you will greatly appreciate the talent and knowledge of a person who really knows their stuff when it comes to sound posts.

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History of *Put Your Little Foot*
Information condensed from
www.ibiblio.org/fiddlers

The tune is also known as the varsouvienne (other spellings exist). Some other names it goes by are *The Waltz Vienna*, *The Silver Lake*, *Kick a Dutchman*, *Father Halpin's Topcoat*, *Shoe the Donkey*, *The Girl from*

Warsaw, *Step Waltz*, *Paddy Candy*, and *Cock Your Leg Up Hi Ho*.

The varsouvienne is a dance step in which the first part is a waltz hold with a turning and pointing the toe movement, while the second part is mazurka - heel, toe, chasse', chasse'. Many listeners recognize this tune and appreciate when it is played.

Put Your Little Foot

submitted by Donna Johnson Reuter
arr. Harley C. "Bud" Johnson

Fiddle

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