

Complete Description of Fields in the Online Database of Historical Viols

<u>Field Name</u>	<u>Comments</u>
DHV number	A unique identifier, initially applied to the records taken over from Tourin in 1991 as sorted by his identifying sigla, and subsequently to those added by MacCracken in the order added; some numbers no longer exist because the associated instruments have been deleted (or at least provisionally omitted) due to not meeting the criteria for inclusion
Tourin ID	Identifying siglum used in Peter Tourin's <i>Viollist</i> (1979); if blank, instrument is an addition since 1991 by MacCracken
Size	For the complete database, choices include Pardessus, Quinton, Treble, Tenor, Bass, and Violone, though not all sizes are found in each country of origin. In general, pardessus normally have a body length of less than 34 cm, trebles less than 44 cm, tenors less than 60 cm, and basses less than 80 cm.
Place Made	Listed with the country first (using internationally-recognized abbreviations; England is represented by "GB" rather than "UK"), followed by the city.
Maker Name	Separate fields for surname and given name; the spelling of both may be standardized
Date	A capital letter C for "circa" may <u>follow</u> the date; periods may replace the final two digits if these are illegible or estimated/unknown (e.g., "16.." means some time during the 17th century).
Label	Transcribes the text of any interior label (or exterior brand stamp) not obviously associated with a repair, using the exact spelling and punctuation found there but with no attempt to accurately reproduce typography. However, diagonal slashes indicate line breaks when these are known, and printed labels are distinguished from handwritten ones whenever possible.
Body Shape	Choices include Viol, Violin/Cello (i.e., with pointed corners, sometimes but not always accompanied by square shoulders), Guitar (cornerless), and Festoon (highly variable, but usually having both exterior and interior corners)
Number of strings	Describes the instrument's current state, even if obviously modified from the original; 6+6 means 6 bowed plus 6 sympathetic (the latter almost always being later additions), while (4) usually indicates an unreversed cello or viola conversion
Sound hole shape	Most often C, less frequently F or Flame (the latter covering many variations); C* indicates either a crescent shape without "eyes" at either end or backward (inward-facing) Cs
Head	Decoration at the top of the pegbox, which may be a Scroll, Open scroll, or a carved Head of some type: Male/Female, Lion, Cupid, etc.; "Head" means unclear but not a scroll
Location	Current location of instrument, using same system as Place Made; North American locations give both city and state or province.
Collection	Current owner, whether an institution or a private individual; in the latter case names are here replaced with "Private Collection," except for a few well-known performer/collectors who have themselves publicized the instruments they own
Catalog number	Generally applies only to institutionally-owned viols
Private owner	Either "Yes" or blank
Previous owner	Listed in reverse chronological order (most recent first), with dates if possible
Measurements	Given in centimeters (to the nearest millimeter), with length and widths usually taken on the front, over the arching; rib depths personally measured by the present compiler do not include thickness of the table and back, but often it is uncertain which method has been used by other researchers
Body length	Measured from the joint between neck and body to the bottom block, along the center line, taken over the arching of the table unless otherwise noted, as are the widths
Width, upper	Maximum width of upper bouts
Width, middle	Minimum width of center bouts
Width, lower	Maximum width of lower bouts

Rib depth	Taken at the bottom block, or maximum if greater elsewhere
String length	From the top nut to the fingerboard side of the bridge (whose position may of course vary depending on the setup)
Info. source	Source(s) on which the data record is based, which may be a first-hand visit (by Peter Tourin = PT, or Thomas MacCracken = TGM, with a month/year date) or a publication (here identified by author's surname plus date of publication, with full details in the accompanying bibliography), or information provided privately
Literature	Important published descriptions of, or references to, this instrument, cited as above
Photos	Published photographs, cited as above (for books) or as below (for recordings), plus unpublished photos taken by Tourin or MacCracken, or obtained from other sources. In each case, the view of instrument is indicated as front, back, side (often abbreviated F, B, S), head, label, etc.; color photos are so marked, while others may be assumed to be black-and-white.
Recordings	Cited by the performer's surname and date, with fuller details in the bibliography (where manufacturer's catalog numbers are generally those of the initial release only and are often now out of print, especially for vinyl LPs). This list is not comprehensive, favoring solo recordings when known, though continuo and consort use is also noted as possible.
Auctions	For instruments that have been offered for sale at auctions, gives the firm's name, date (in the format YYYY/MM/DD), and lot number
Comments	Contains various additional information as available, including (but not systematically): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • further description of structure (e.g. arched or striped back, overhanging edges) or decoration (e.g. purfling, other decorative inlay work, rosette), and current condition • types of wood used, if known to be unusual (i.e. not spruce and maple), and number of pieces in the table and back, if known to be other than two • known non-original parts of the instrument, as well as restoration or repair work, including labels or inscriptions associated with the latter • dimensions from other sources, if different from main "Info. source"; dashes indicate missing data • opinions of various people or publications, with attributions (sometimes direct quotes)

—Thomas G. MacCracken
(revised 7/2022)