

# Basic Detail Report

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## Violin

### Date

1780-1820 ca.

### Primary Maker

Jean-Baptiste Grand-Gérard

### Description

Inexpensive instruments for the violin trade were made in Mirecourt since at least the seventeenth century. This example by Jean-Baptiste Grand-Gérard is in original condition and preserves a number of interesting features. The top and edges of the back are blackened using soot from the flame of a candle or lamp to imitate the dirt accumulation that comes with age, an extremely early attempt at antiquing a musical instrument. The bassbar was carved from the same wood as the top, a construction characteristic found in early Northern European violin-family instruments. Top: two-piece, quarter-cut spruce: fine grain broadening to wide at the edges; large maple pin through top into bottom block on bass side of center joint; originally set into neck heel with no notch Back: two-piece, quarter-cut maple: plain; large maple pin through back into top block on treble side of center joint; large maple pin through back into bottom block on bass side of center joint; large maple dowel through button into neck heel Ribs: quarter-cut maple: plain; one-piece lower rib Head and neck: maple: faint, narrow curl; steeply angled back Varnish: light orange; candle blacking applied below varnish at center of top and back to imitate aging Fingerboard: ebony; later Nut: ebony; later Pegs: four rosewood; later Saddle: missing Endpin: missing F-holes: flared lower wings; undercut

Linings: spruce Corner blocks: willow or poplar Top block: willow or poplar; narrow; two nails through block into neck heel, now removed, one iron screw through block into neck heel Bottom block: willow or poplar; narrow Bassbar: triangular profile; low height; shortened later

### Dimensions

Total violin length: 587 mm Back length: 364 mm Upper bout width: 170 mm Center bout width: 113 mm  
Lower bout width: 207 mm Upper rib height: 31-34 mm Center rib height: 32-34 mm Lower rib height: 33-  
34 mm Stop length: 193 mm Vibrating string length: 324 mm Neck length (bottom of nut to ribs): 130 mm