

Pochette or Kit -- also called "Moorish Rebab"

The "dance-master's kit" - or "pocket-violin" (pochette) developed from the rebec. The earliest known example was made by Conrad Müller, Nürnberg, in 1520.

The pochette became widespread in the 16th and 18th centuries. It was used by dance masters for teaching from house to house, etc.

The kit had numerous designs and shapes. The early type was boat-shaped, showing its rebec ancestry; in the 18th century the violin-shaped design became common and predominated.



Mersenne (1613) named rebecs with long bodies "*pochettes*". Praetorius (1619/20) named the "*klein geig*" "*ribecchino*" and pictured 2 examples, a "*klein geig*" and a "*klein poschen*".

Characteristics:

Originally there was no clearly separated neck. The elevation of the neck near the peg box (or peg plate) seems to have been the first step in the development of a fingerboard.

At first the body was made out of a solid block. Later, the body was also made in a manner similar to lutes, Gitarre Battente, etc., using bent ribs and a separately attached neck with scroll and fingerboard.

A Violin style bridge and tailpiece were used.

Soundholes:

Normally C-holes were used, facing to the outside. No frets.

Strings: 3-4 in fifths, the 4th bass string was added later.

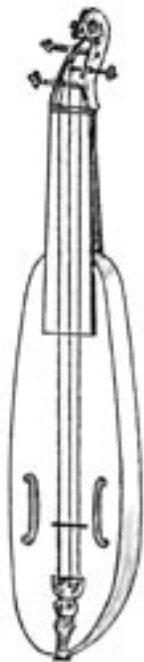
Tuning:

Praetorius:

Klein Diskant Geig

Gar Klein Geig

Sachs:



Average measurements:

Length of body 35-45 cm

Width of body 4-5 cm