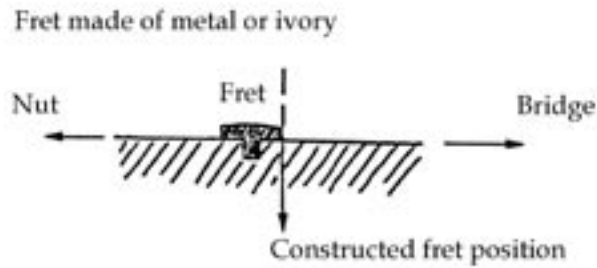


Construction of Frets

When frets are inlaid the bridge side of the fret is placed at the constructed line.



Tying Frets on Viols

Fret materials: gut, nylon, perlon, metal, ivory, bone

Diameter of the gut: 0.8 mm

The diameter of the gut should decrease towards the bridge



The first fret is tied on the thinnest part of the neck and then pushed into final position. The fret will tighten as it is pushed along the taper of the neck and fingerboard. Each subsequent fret is tied and tightened in this way.

Gut frets have to be wet before tying, so that as they dry, shrinkage will cause a tighter fit. The frets are double knotted and the ends burned before the fret is pushed down into final position. The knots face to the bass side of the fingerboard.

Improperly designed viols may make it difficult to place and tie the frets. The frets may also slip. The thinnest part of the neck must be above the position of the first fret so that the fret can be bound there. If the neck is not tapered properly, the fret cannot be tightened by pushing it along the taper.

The neck must be long enough, and the neck heel must not be too full; it must be possible to position all seven frets on the flat part of the neck.

While playing, the finger must touch the fret.