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Exile Fey

Yes, I know there are some top quality very thick gut strings that remain highly flexible. I remember as my lady was experimenting for her performance of the whole package of Biber's Rosary sonatas, I had made a spreadsheet file that would calculate the string tension for each sonata. She performed all 3 'sets' of 5 on 4 different instruments, some people use 3. If you are interested I will try to find the spreadsheet, what is nice about it is that I 'fine tuned' to Biber's scordatura, so you find each an every combination. You need to set for a 'range' of acceptable tension. Having said that, the other thing is that **theory is not all, because the gauge of a gut string does not tell you all about it, some thicker gauge gut but highly flexible sounds better than a lighter gauge of very stiff gut.** The best strings she tried, for the bottom, are from 'Pura Corda', those are really really top quality, she used one of those as the 4th string on those scordaturas where you need to tune really high up.

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Oliver Webber

You are absolutely right to point out that gauge is not everything: **the thicker the string, the more important flexibility is.**



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Exile Fey

Oliver Webber Yes, because **basically a very stiff string creates inharmonicities... so that the harmonics are not really in tune...** I don't know if I spelt it right, but 'Pura Corda' makes some really excellent strings, a very thick gauge but extremely flexible. Some good baroque violinist pointed me out that there is some **iconography where you see a 'bundle' of string hanging from the violin, where the 'spare' string, waiting to be installed, seems extremely flexible (by the way it is tied).**

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Oliver Webber

Yes, Pure Corde are very flexible. I make strings with **Real Guts in Manchester,** and our speciality is also very flexible thicker strings.



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Exile Fey

Oliver Webber Good to know. Do you know the picture I am talking about? It was shown to me, but I could try to find it... I believe it is an aged violinist, and you can clearly see bundles of strings, hanging from the pegbox (the explanation given to me, which I find quite plausible, is that the extra strings are there for the well-known business of replacing snapped strings). I am very curious, but why is it that certain strings are so flexible despite being quite heavy, and yet you find those other gut strings that take bending and knotting like iron nails?

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Oliver Webber

Exile Fey there are dozens of pictures which show this, so we know that historically strings tended to be very flexible. The difference is due to the amount of twist the strings are given: the more highly twisted they are, the more flexible they are.

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