

The wholesale price of bows varied considerably depending on their quality. They were normally supplied and billed by the dozen as can be seen in the purchase ledger from 1817:

Ordinary, very simple: 1fl. 48 kr. a dozen; 9 kr. a piece

Standard bows: 3 fl. a dozen, that is 15 kr. a piece

Quality bows: 12 fl. a dozen, that is 1 fl. a piece

High-quality bows: 2 to 3 fl. a piece; in very rare instances 4 fl.

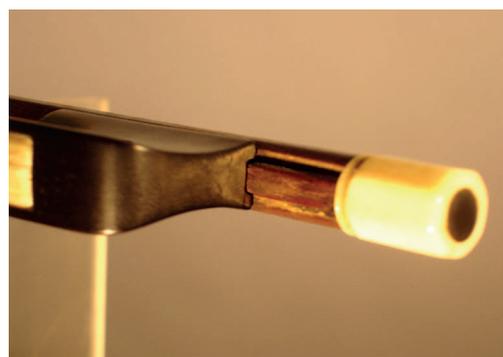
The 'gulden' (guilder or florin) was the currency used in Bavaria at that time, with 60 kreuzer making 1 gulden.

Thanks to detailed annotations, the chronological development of bow making in Mittenwald can also be traced exactly. Early bows still have the Old German tongue-and-groove frog seating and an open hair box.

Quality bow, open, price 1 fl. a piece



Cello bows, open hair box,
tongue-and-groove frog seating



A reference is also made in 1817 to bows with a so-called French frog. Bader probably meant a frog seating with three facets which were manufactured at that time without a metal liner. The ferrule and pearl slide are similarly mentioned at this time. Parallel to this, the open model continued to be made, too. The majority of bows were:

Ordinary, very simple, standard and quality;

high-quality bows were the exception.

Only three bow makers are listed who made *high-quality bows*:

Carl Wörnle (1762 – 1833)

In an entry in the marriage register recording his son’s wedding in 1825 and in the death register he is mentioned as a violin bow maker. Bader purchase ledger, 1815: *Bow with silver face plate and silver button – probably with an open frog.*

Thomas Pittl (1765 – 1852)

In the entries in the birth register for his children in 1805 and 1807, he is listed as a bow maker. Bader purchase ledger, 1817: *6 high-quality bows, each 2.4 5fl*

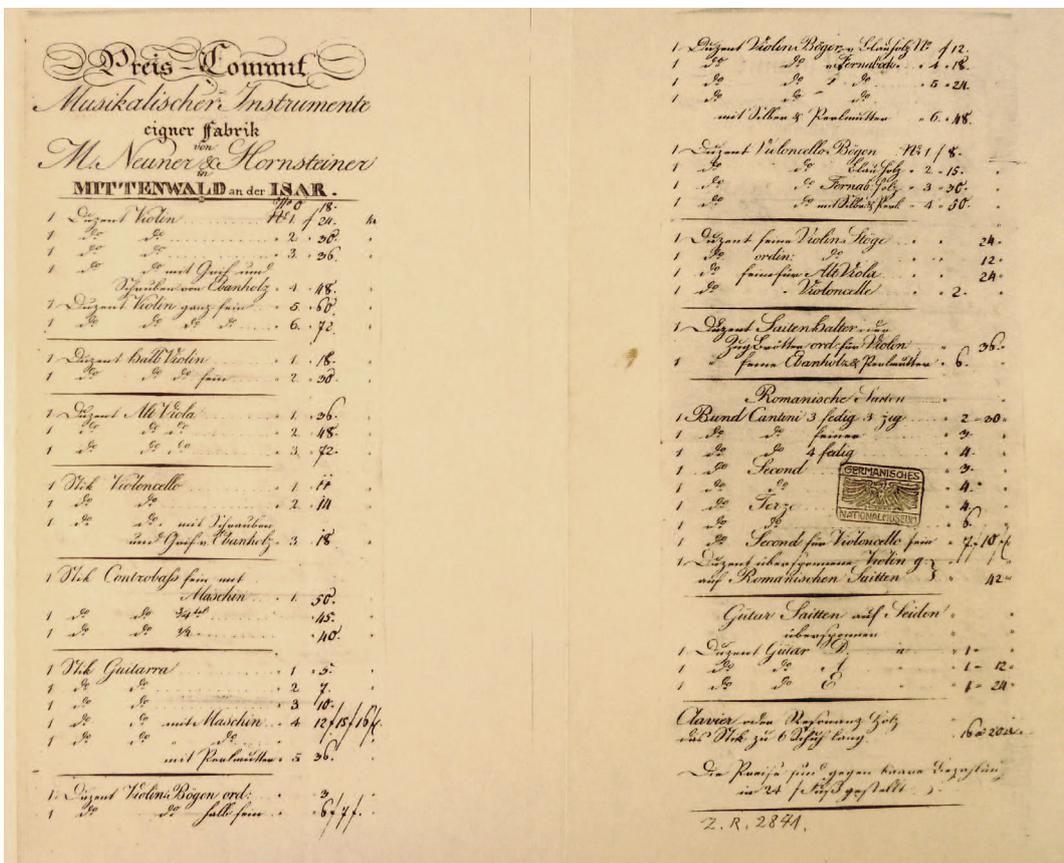
Sebastian Pittl (1794 – 1878)

Thomas Pittl’s son worked for Bader from 1824 onwards. Purchase ledger, 1834: *high-quality bows with silver ferrules, face plates and buttons*

These three bow makers also supplied quality and standard bows.

The sales ledger reveals that, after 1835, silver was replaced by nickel silver (a copper, nickel and zinc alloy). Initially the price remained the same.

A price list of around 1820 from the other major sales company in Mittenwald, Neuner & Hornsteiner, also lists bows of various qualities at a wide range of prices.

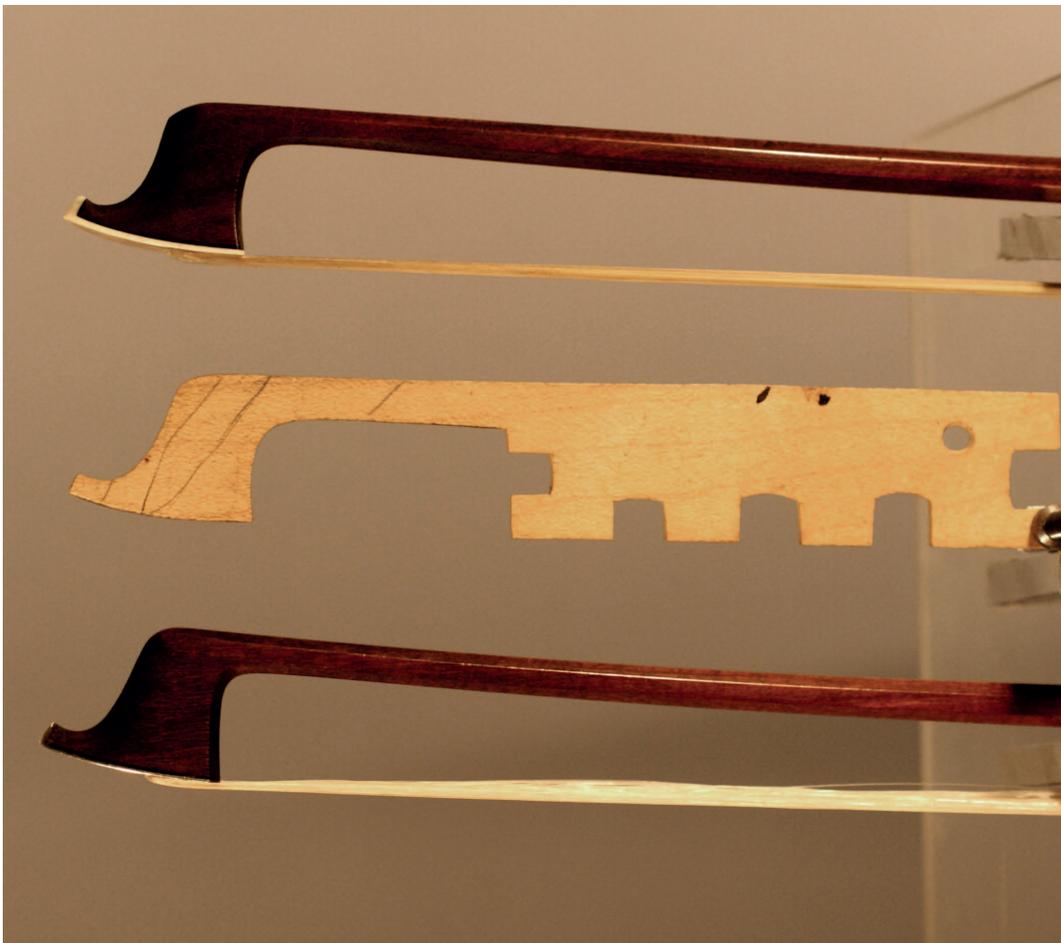


Neuner & Hornsteiner price list c. 1820

Bow making in Mittenwald was obviously exclusively in the hands of the two trading companies **Neuner & Hornsteiner** and **Johann Anton Bader**. None of the Mittenwald bows bear the stamp of either the maker or one of the two trading companies in Mittenwald. Neuner & Hornsteiner which, according to its own sources, was founded in 1750, was the much larger company and, from around 1780 onwards at the latest, ran the Mittenwald bow making business on a large scale. Unfortunately, no early business ledgers from the company have been found to date.

Numerous bows still exist today that bear the stamp of two Munich-based violin makers, Stephan Thumhart and Andreas Engleder, who founded their businesses in 1810 and 1822 respectively. The distinctive features of their work suggest they created a southern German style of their own.

A template belonging to the Neuner & Hornsteiner estate that matches these bows exactly, however, confirms the general belief that these bows actually came from Mittenwald. Sales ledgers from the Bader company record that Bader bows were also supplied to the two violin businesses in Munich in 1828 and 1831. However, it can reasonably be assumed that both violin makers bought considerably larger quantities of bows from Neuner & Hornsteiner. It would seem that only quality and high-quality bows were given the Munich violin makers' stamp.



Template of bow

The early Thumhart stamp is in block capitals and was added to early bows with tongue and groove seating frog. 'München' is stamped on the next facet. It is possible that this bow still had an open hair box with the ferrule and pearl slide being added at a later date.



Thumhart stamp in block capitals

The second Thumhart stamp is in cursive script. A bass instrument from 1831, made by Stephan Thumhart, bears such a stamp, burnt onto the underside of the belly. It can reasonably be assumed that Thumhart changed the type of stamp used around 1830.



Thumhart stamp in cursive script

The next especially beautiful bow with a face plate, ferrule, inlaid silver button and a frog with a mother-of-pearl inlay was probably the most expensive model.



The high-quality model of violin bow



A quality model of violin bow

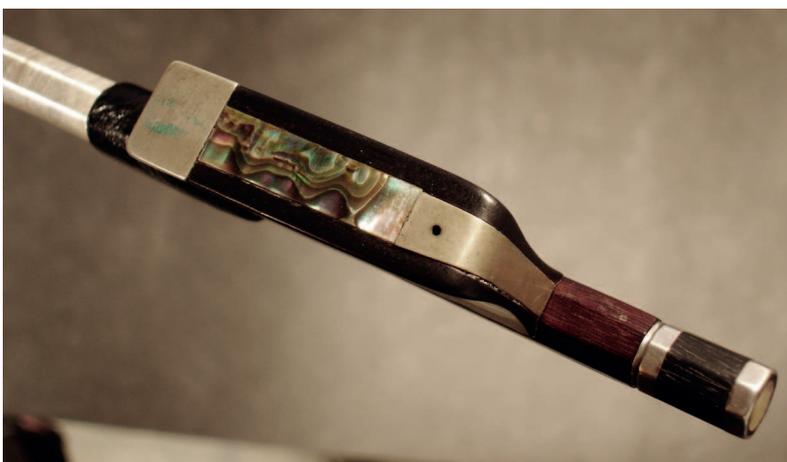


All original face plates known are either made of silver, nickel silver or bone.

Two bows with the Andreas Engleder stamp. This cello bow was probably made around 1840 and has a stamp in block letters. The silver underliner is fixed with iron screws.



Engleder cello bow with stamp in block letters



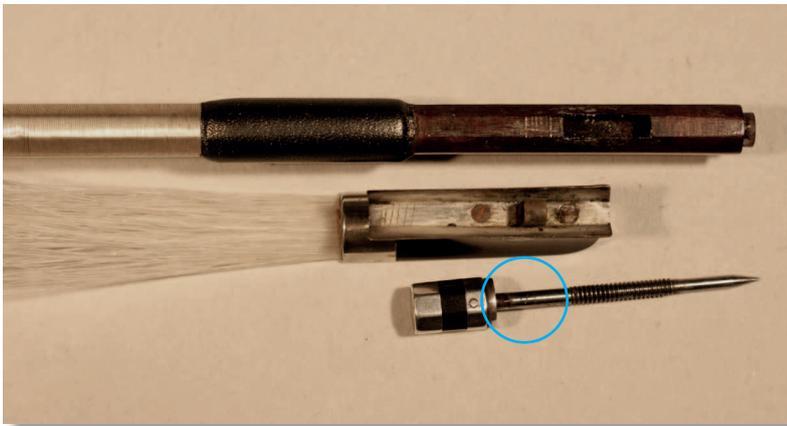
The second bow with an Engleder stamp in cursive script was made around 1850. The underliner is also fixed with iron screws.



Engleder violin bow with stamp in cursive script



The clearly visible markings on the handle, frog and screw were probably made only in a single Mittenwald workshop. A stamped Thumhart bow with the same markings is also known.



Engleder violin bow inscriptions



The most expensive bows listed in the Bader company's ledgers are highlighted.
*On 24 April, 10 May, 2 June and 21 June 1824, Sebastian Pittl supplied:
 Six pieces, high-quality bows with inlaid button, frog and silver ferrule, 4 guilders each.*

A sales invoice sent to St. Petersburg and dated 24 July 1824, matches this exactly:
*24 high-quality violin bows with
 silver ferrule, silver faceplates, buttons inlaid with mother-of-pearl and on the frog with a
 mother-of-pearl inlay; 6.54 guilders each*



Invoice from 1824 sent to St. Petersburg

Due to cheaper products made by competitors, bow making in Mittenwald ceased in the mid 19th century.

List of Bow Makers in Mittenwald

(incomplete)

Alois Hornsteiner	known as Pfaundleralisi	1781–1848	from 1806
Joseph Hornsteiner	known as Hofschmiedsepp	1775–1852	from 1818
Sebastian Hornsteiner	known as Pfaundler		from 1806
Sebastian Pittl	known as Pittlwastl	1794–1878	from 1824
Thomas Pittl	known as Thoma	1765–1852	from 1805
Andreas Schandl	known as Raßnander	1770–1847	from 1805
Franz Wackerl	known as Pfutifranzl	1779–1843	from 1809
Friedrich Wackerl	known as Pfutifridl	1774–1835	from 1806
Michael Wackerl	known as Pfutimichl	1759–1820	from 1790
Johannes Wackerl		1729–1811	from 1782
Johann Witsch		1784–1836	from 1810
Mathias Witsch		1781–1843	from 1806
Carl Wörnle	known as Carl	1762–1833	from 1815
Joseph Wörnle	known as Dölchleseppl	1792–1848	from 1825