

A brief guide to available models of Flute (Aug 2024)

Flute specifications

Prices: the prices stated are currently available *discount prices*, most shops usually offer a discount from the 'RRP' (the 'recommended retail price') which is determined by the manufacturer or distributor that supplies the shop where the instrument is bought. The 'RRP' is the best figure to use for insurance purposes and it is often used for rental agreements. The 'RRP' can be used to calculate the second-hand value of an instrument (which will be around half the 'RRP' for an instrument in good condition). I strongly recommend that potential customers should not decide on price alone when looking to buy a particular instrument, but should also take into consideration local convenience and the level of customer service provided. Prices below are from a range of 'Bricks and Mortar' shops although you may have to order through their website.

Key-work: the models are described with particular reference to which parts are silver-plated or solid silver and whether the G keys are in-line or off-line because that is what is of immediate relevance to the player (although there will be other variations between models).

Abbreviations: S=Silver; W = wood; Comp = composite material
L = lip plate; C = chimney (riser); H= head-joint; T = tube;
St Hd – Straight Head-joint; Crv Hd = Curved Head-joint;
Lp Hd = Looped Head-joint;
OH! = open hole only!
Hrz = Horizontal body (Bass flute); Vtl = Vertical (Upright) body (Bass flute);

Brands: there can be confusion over what constitutes a 'brand'.

Some brands are owned by manufacturers – they design, build, and set-up ready for supply to the retailer – such brands include Yamaha, and Jupiter. This type of brand tends to be manufactured to a consistent quality. Some brands are owned by 'production companies' – they design the instrument and commission a factory to produce it, they are also involved in the quality control and might even have their own workshops where they 'set-up' the instrument ready for supply to the retailer – such brands include Trevor J James. This type of brand also tends to be manufactured to a consistent quality.

A third type of brand is the 'badged' instrument where a retailer (or distributor) stamps their own chosen brand name on 'blank' instruments. There is no consistency with this type of brand (other than the low cost of the blank instrument) because these blank instruments can originate from different sources. For this reason, shop's own 'badged' brands are not included below (with the exception of Windcraft student flutes, the Just Flutes Alto and Bass flutes, and the All flutes plus 'Early start flute', all of which have in-house technicians to maintain quality standards); Distributor's 'badged' brands might be included because they are more difficult to identify.

Young Children's Beginner 'Fifes'

Children's beginner piccolos in C playing to C

Recommended: Nuvo 'Toot' keyed fife (Recorder + flute lip-plate): £32

Also available:

Aulos C21 'Pipit' keyless fife (traditional embouchure): £17

Guo 'shining 'piper' keyed (diatonic) Fife (traditional embouchure): £95

'Myfife' keyless fife (reform lip-plate): £9

Nuvo 'Toot' keyless fife (Recorder + flute lip-plate): £32

Yamaha YRF-21 fife (reform lip-plate): £15

Children's Beginner flutes

Shortened Flutes (flutes in C only playing down to Low D)

AFP 1K 'Early start': curved head-joint to Low D £195

Nuvo 'Jflute' (plastic): 'Donut' head-joint to Low D £135

Jupiter Jfl700UD (metal): curved head-joint to Low D (Prodigy 313) £539

Jupiter JFL700WD (metal): looped head-joint to Low D (Prodigy 509s) £645

Regular size Flute (Plastic)

Nuvo 'flute': Straight Head-joint to Low C £149

Student closed-hole flutes (excluding most budget instruments below £260)

The prices for Standard and Premium flutes are usually for models with straight heads unless otherwise indicated but curved heads are available for all models (looped head on Jupiter models)

Standard student:

Recommended:

Jupiter Jfl700ec £468 (or JFL511 if avail £325)

Trevor James 10xe IV £529 (or TJ10xp SLR (SL + C) £474)

Or TJ 10x 'open G#' £449 (Note: non-standard fingering!)

Also available: Leblanc Lfl211e £361; Kurioshi Vivace £250; Trevor James 5x £285; Windcraft WFL-110 £228

Premium student:

Recommended:

Yamaha 212 £545 (or Yamaha 212SL £639)

Pearl 505E £550 (or Pearl 525E with SL £715)

Also available: Armstrong 230E £525; Di Zhao DZ301 (SL) £750; Guo Tocco plus (comp) £650; Powell-Sonare PS-101 (OH!) £450; Trevor James 31PF 'Privilege' £579 (SL+C).

Advanced student:

Recommended: Azumi AZ-Z1E (SL+C) £1129

Also available: Azumi AZ-Z2E (SH) £1449 or AZ-S2 (SH) £1549; Di Zhao DZ601 (SH) £989; Guo 'New voice' (comp) £1095; Miyazawa MJ-101 (SP) £995 or MJII-25e (SL) £1095 or MJ-101SE (SH) £1450; Pearl 665E (SH) from £1100; Trevor James 31CF 'Chanson' (SH) £869 or TJ31CP 'Copper body' (SL+C) £995; Yamaha YFL312 (SH) £1065.

Student open-hole flutes

The models listed above as 'student closed-hole' flutes are usually available as open-hole flutes at approximately the same cost. NB the Powell-Sonare PS-101 (above) is only available as open hole.

Student flutes available with Low B foot-joint

Most the manufacturers of the student models listed above do supply at least one model in their student range with a B foot-joint but whether retailers stock them is another matter. The cost of a flute supplied with a B foot-joint is usually extra. It is possible to purchase a new B foot-joint separately (Jupiter £272, Pearl £325, Trevor James £250, Yamaha £199). if a separately purchased foot-joint does not fit your existing flute exactly then usually it can be adjusted by a repairer for a small charge.

Student head-joints

Curved Head-joints can usually be supplied with new student flutes as an alternative (but usually at an extra cost) or in addition to a straight head-joint; some makes of curved head-joint can be bought separately. If a separately purchased head-joint does not fit the existing flute exactly, it can be adjusted by a repairer for a small charge.

Silver-plated straight head-joints: from about £50 or £70 (e.g. Trevor James and Yamaha)
Silver-plated curved head-joints: new from about £43 (e.g. Windcraft)
Solid Silver (straight) head-joints: from about £300 (e.g. Yamaha)

Graduate & Professional (available entry model) prices (exc hand made)

Altus from £? (SL: 807e) or from £2495 (SH: 907e); Azalea from £2019 (SH: IF-302A); Azumi from £1999 (SH: AZ-Z3E or AZ-S3E); Di Zhao from £2095 (ST: DZ801); Haynes from £2195 (SH: Q1); Miyazawa from £1995 (SL: PB102e); Muramatsu from £3180 (SH: EX-CCE); Pearl from £1525 (SH: 695 Dolce); Powell Sonare from £1749 (SH: PS-501) or from £1895 (ST: PS-505); Sankyo from £2595 (SH: 201e [Etude]); Trevor James from £1349 (ST: Virtuoso); Yamaha from £1868 (ST: YFL 412).

Left-handed flutes

There is only one commercial maker of Left-handed flutes: Viento (<https://www.viento-querfloeten.de/en/>) and the reason for this is that the vast majority of left-handed players have no difficulty playing the 'right-handed' flute, however for experienced players there are some interesting aspects to the instrument. Viento make a range of left-handed flutes from student to graduate level.

Open G# flutes

There is only one model of 'open G#' flute that is currently commercially available (in the UK) and that is the Trevor James 10x 'open G#'. Although this is a student model, it is best avoided by beginners at the moment as there are no teachers (in the UK) for this fingering system, although it is commonly taught in other parts of the world; it might be of interest to established flute players who want to experience a flute closer to Boehm's original design.

Harmony flutes

G treble flute: from £995 Guo 'New Voice'

Eb soprano flute: from £3250 Just flutes JFE-310

Note: although Just flutes market this as Boehm equivalent of the Simple system Eb marching flute it would actually be of more interest to Alto Sax players (it is in the same key) or bands trying to recreate the 1940s US sound.

Flute d'amour (in Bb): from £3095 (Just flutes JFB-310B)

Flute d'amour (in A): from £poa (Altus 1009E)

Alto – available entry models: Altus from £5699 (St Hd: 825e); Di Zhao from £1995 (Crv Hd: DZA100); Haynes Amadeus from £2195 (St Hd/Crv Hd: AF570s); Jupiter from £1795 (St Hd/Crv Hd: JAF1000E); Just Flutes from £1395 (St Hd+Crv Hd: JFA111); Miyazawa from £6395 (St Hd: SH-E); Pearl from £1725 (St Hd/Crv Hd: PFA201ES); Sankyo from £4995 (St Hd: AF101s); Trevor James from £1549 (St Hd+Crv Hd: Performer series); Trevor James (Copper) from £2095 (Hrz: Performer series); Yamaha from £6233 (St Hd/Crv Hd: A421sII)

Bass – available entry models: Altus from £7095 (Hrz: 823 series); Di Zhao from £2995 (Hrz: DZB100); Guo from £2095 (Hrz: New Voice); Jupiter (Hrz) from £3250 (JBF 1000) Jupiter (Vtl) £3995 (Vtl: JBF1100); Just flutes (Hrz) from £1795 (JFB 121) ; Kingma (Vtl) £17,995; Kingma & Brannen £19,995 (Hrz+OH); Pearl from £3495 (Hrz: PFB305e); Sankyo from £12,500 (Hrz: BF101) Trevor James from £2990 (Hrz: Performer series); Yamaha from £6335 (Hrz: B441sII).

Bigger flutes – including Contra-alto, Contra Bass, and Sub Contra Bass - available from some commercial makers and by individual makers to order.

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