

A brief guide to available Bassoons (Aug 2019)

Bassoon specifications

Prices: the first price stated is the SSRP for the instrument (Supplier's Suggested Retail Price) the supplier being the manufacturer or distributor that supplies the shop where the instrument is bought; the second figure is the best discount price I've found (retailers usually offer a discount on the SSRP price); £? indicates unknown figure. I strongly recommend that potential customers should not decide on price alone, but should also take into consideration the level of customer service provided. The SSRP can be used to calculate the second-hand value of an instrument (which will be around half the SSRP) and it is also the figure often used for insurance purposes and rental agreements.

Key-work: the models are described with particular reference to their key-work although there will be other variations between models. There is no universal method of counting key-work - most manufacturers include the crook key as one of the standard 23 keys, and count the crook lock (CL) as an added key; in contrast the left hand finger III plate (LP3), the extra plate for the double Low C key (dble C), and any extra plate keys on short-reach instruments (left hand finger II plate - LP2, and right hand finger I plate - RP1) and are not usually counted as extra keys. In the descriptions below, the total number of standard keys is stated first (if known) then any plate keys (if known), then the omitted standard keys (the omitted LH3 Eb vent link is in brackets because it is not a counted key), then added (and counted) key-work, finishing with added but uncounted key-work in brackets - so looking at the Amati 33HL below it has 22 counted keys, it also has three plate keys (L3P, L2P, R1P), it does *not* have the standard alternative boot Bb or the standard alternative boot G# but it does have an added crook lock.

Abbreviations: some manufacturers use the letter M to indicate a matt finish, L to indicate a lacquer finish, and T to indicate thick wall. The basic model 'spec' is given below but manufacturers frequently offer optional extra keys (at a charge) so it is common to find the same model listed in different shops but with slightly different specifications (be wary!). A question mark indicates unknown or not found; nca UK indicates not currently available (new) in the UK.

'Mini' Bassoons (and Tenoroons) for children (pitched a 5th and 4th higher)

These are smaller instruments than standard size and 'shortened' bassoons and thus they are at a higher pitch. Discount price range approx £1400 - £3000.

Budget quality:

(Ludlow) Mini-Bassoon (in G, Black Plastic, reduced key-work-15K?) £?/£1395

Standard/Premium quality:

Bassetto 'Faggottino' B65 Mini-Bassoon (in G, Wood, reduced key-work). (nca UK)

Howarth 'Mini-Bassoon plus' (in G, Wood, reduced key-work -16K) £?/£2830

Bassetto 'Faggottino' B95 Mini-Bassoon (in G, Wood, reduced key-work) £?/£2895

Howarth 'Tenoroon plus' (in F, Wood, reduced key-work -16K) £?/£3035

Wolf Fg5 'Quint Mini-Bassoon' (in G, reduced key-work -16K). (nca UK - Import approx £2669)

'Shortened' Bassoons to Low C only (no Low B or Bb)

'Shortened' Bassoons have no bell and no keys for (the rarely used) Low B and Bb - thus the length of the bore is shorter but the rest of the instrument is standard size and at standard pitch, although some of the alternate keys and trill keys are also omitted. Discount price range £3400 - £4750.

For primary school children

Heyday's - Fagonello (Basic) Bassoon: 11K? inc LP3: no boot alts Bb, G#, F#, no boot c# trill, no boot ring key; no wing f# trill, (no LH3 Eb vent link), no crook key, either no high A (or C?); no Bass Eb, C#, B, and Bb. (nca UK)

Heyday's - Fagonello (Chromatic) Bassoon: 13K? inc LP3: no alt boot alts Bb, G#, F#, no boot c# trill, no boot ring key; no wing f# trill, (no LH3 Eb vent link), no crook key, either no high A (or C?); no Bass B and Bb. £?/£3600

For secondary school children (or adult beginners)

Adler C 1350 'mini' (in C) Bassoon: 15K inc LP3: no boot alts Bb, G#, F#, no boot c# trill; no wing f# trill, no crook key, (no LH3 Eb vent link); no Bass B and Bb. £4134/£3404

Adler C 1350(+) 'mini' (in C) Bassoon: 16K inc LP3: no boot alts Bb, G#, F#, no boot c# trill; no wing f# trill, (no LH3 Eb vent link); no Bass B and Bb. £?/£4195

Amati 32C Bassoon: 16K inc LP3: no boot alts Bb, G#, F#, no boot c# trill; no wing f# trill, (no LH3 Eb vent link); no Bass B and Bb. Possibly now renamed 'Vantage' £?/£4750.

Student Bassoons (short-Reach)

The standard number of keys is 23, but 'short-reach' Bassoons are modified in various ways for smaller hands (not necessarily children's) sometimes by adding 1 more (uncounted) plate keys to cover difficult to reach holes and often omitting the (counted) alternative boot Bb and alternative boot G# keys to create the common 21 key instrument (however sometimes a crook lock and a high d key are then added). Discount price range approx £1750 - £5400.

Budget quality:

JP 191 MkII: 22K: no boot alts Bb, G#; added - CL, (dbl C). £2199/£1759

Tuyama Etude: ?key: no alt boot G#; added - CL, (dbl C). (nca UK)

Standard quality:

Amati 31HL: 21K inc L3P: no boot alts Bb, G#. £?/£4100

Amati 32M: 18K inc L3P: no boot alts Bb, G#, F#, no boot c# trill; no wing f# trill. (nca UK)

Amati 33HL: 22K inc L3P (+L2P+RP1): no boot alts Bb, G#; added - CL £?/£4200

Premium quality:

Adler 1356L: 21K inc L3P: no boot alts Bb, G#; added - (dbl C). £?/£4295

Adler 1356DL: 22K inc L3P: no boot alts Bb, G#; added - high d, (dbl C). £6525/ £5079

Fox 51: 20K inc LP3: no boot alts Bb, G#, no boot c# trill. (nca UK)

Fox 41 (semi short reach?): 23 K inc LP3. (nca UK)

Howarth Academy: 19K inc LP3: no boot alts Bb, G#, no boot c# trill; no wing f# trill. £?/£4810

Moosman 96: 19K inc L3: no boot alts Bb, G#, no boot c# trill; no wing f# trill. (nca UK)

Schreiber S10: 22K: no boot alts Bb, G#, no boot c# trill; added - CL, high d, (dbl C). £6219/£4681

Schreiber S13: 23K inc LP3: no boot alt Bb, no boot c# trill; added - high d, (dbl C). £6525/£4912

Schreiber S17: 25K inc LP3: added - high d, (dbl C). £7181/£5406

Wolf S2000 SH: 25K: added - CL, high d. (selected woods). £?/£5200

Student Bassoons (not short-reach but with reduced key work)

Discount Price range approx. £? - £6250

Premium:

Adler 1357/120 (W): 23K: no boot alts Bb, G#; added - CL, high d, (dbl C). Pos available in UK

Adler 1357/125: 24K: no boot alt Bb; added - CL, high d, (dbl C). Pos available in UK

Howarth Academy: 24K: no boot alt Bb; added - CL, high d, (dbl C). £?/£5465

G Mollenhauer 'student' model: 22K: no boot alts Bb, G#, no boot c# trill; added - CL, high d, (dbl C). £?/6250

Moosman 100: 22K: no boot alt Bb, no boot c# trill; no wing f# trill; added - CL, high d. (nca UK)

Student Bassoons (standard key-work)

Modern student instruments usually have a crook lock and a high d in addition to the standard 23 keys instrument creating the common 25 key instrument, often they also have a double Low C key (dbl C) which is not counted as an additional key. Discount Price range approx. £1760 - £7200.

Budget:

Arnolds AFG 2006: 26K: added - CL, high d, wing F#/G# trill (dbl C key). £?/£2895

J Michael: ?K: added - CL, high d, high e. £?/1799

JP 291: 26K: added - CL, high d, high e. £2199/1759

Maestro: ?key. £?/£1299

Standard:

Amati ABN41(iii) HL: 25K: added - CL, high d. £?/£4500

Premium:

Adler 1357/4: 25K: added - CL, high d, (dbl C). Possibly available in UK

Fox 242D short bore: 25K inc LP3: added - CL, high d. £?/£7200 (Discontinued model)

Fox 222D long bore: 25K inc LP3: added - CL, high d. £?/£6750

Fox model IV (plastic) long bore: 24K: added - high d. (nca UK)

Fox model III (plastic) long bore: 25K: added - CL, high d. (nca UK)

Monnig 208: 25K: added - CL, high d, (dbl C). £5727/£5287

Moosman 111: 25K: added - CL, high d, (dbl C). £?/7650

Schreiber S16: 25K: added - CL, high d, (dbl C). £7181/£5406

Wolf S2000: 25K: added - CL, high d. (selected woods). £?/£poa (at Howarth)

Graduate Bassoons

Graduate instruments have as standard a high d key, crook lock (CL), and the double Low C key (dbl C). They usually also a high e key and wing eb key (for left-hand wing fingers). Discount Price range approx. £6700 - £15000.

Standard:

Adler 1358/4SP: 26K: added - CL, high d, wing eb, (dbl C). £?/£7355

Adler 1361: 27K: added - CL, high d, high e, wing eb, Ab/Bb trill? (dbl C). £?/£8695

Schreiber 5031 'Master': 26K: added - CL, high d, high e, (dbl C). £9885/£7785

Premium:

Fox 240D Short bore: 26K: added - CL, high d, high e, (dbl C). £?/£10200

Fox 220D Long bore: 26K: added - CL, high d, high e, (dbl C). (Discontinued model)

Fox 250D as 220D but Red Maple (not Black Maple). £?/10200

Fox 260D as 240D (but thick-walled?) £?/9995 (Discontinued model)

Kronwalt: 26K: added - CL, high d, high e, £?/13650

G Mollenhauer 'Orchestra' model: 25K?: added - CL, high d, (dbl C) £?/£9995

Monnig 212: 27K: added - CL, high d, high e, wing eb (dbl C) £7282/6722

Monnig 214T: 26K: added - CL, high d, high e (dbl C). £17105/£15789

Moosman 150s: 25K: added - CL, high d, (dbl C). £?/£10950

Puchner Premier: 25K: added - CL, high d, (dbl C). £?/£15075

Schreiber S71: 26K: added - CL, high d, high e. £?/£11060

Wolf S2000+: 26K: added - CL, high d, high e. (selected woods) £?/£9500

Professional and other Bassoons

Professional makes currently available through UK retailers: Fox/Renard from £?/£31500 (600 series models); Leitzinger from £?/£21500 (model 'Exclusive'); Monnig model 214 'Diamant' (nca in UK); Mollenhauer from 13750 (model 'professional'); Moosman from £?/£13500 (model 200); Puchner from £?/£21665 (Jubilee); Schreiber from £?/£17342 (model S91); Yamaha from £?/17490 (model 812). Heckel Bassoons need to be ordered direct.

French system Bassoons uncommon in this country but the Buffet 5613 is available - £10465/9619.

Contra-bassoons currently available through UK retailers: Adler from £15450/£11921 (model 1366); Amati from £?/£12995 (model 36J); Fox from £?/£29950 (model 900); Kronwalt £?/43085; Monnig from £24548/£23662 (model 300); Moosman (model 300) £?/poa; Mollenhauer from £?/£25150 (standard model 75); Schreiber from £?/£29994 (model 5041).

Crooks

Price range £75 - £900; Crook extension available - £14 - Howarth

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