

A brief guide to available Bassoons (June 2022)

Bassoon 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 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 or alt C), and any extra plate keys on short-reach instruments (left hand finger II plate - LP2, and right hand finger I plate - RP1) 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 music shops in the UK but possibly you could buy direct from manufacturer or via an importer.

'Mini' Bassoons (and Tenoroon) 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 £1600 - £3300.

Budget quality:

(Ludlow) Mini-Bassoon (in G, Black Plastic, reduced key-work-15K?) £1600

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) £3260

Bassetto 'Faggottino' B95 Mini-Bassoon (in G, Wood, reduced key-work) £3195

Howarth 'Tenoroon' (in F, Wood, reduced key-work -16K) £3275

Wolf Fg5 'Quint Mini-Bassoon' (in G, reduced key-work -16K). (nca UK - Import approx £2799)

'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 £2700 - £4200.

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. (nca UK)

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. (nca UK)

Adler C 1350P '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. £4142

Amati 32C 'Vantage' 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. £2700.

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 or 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 £1950 - £6000

Budget quality:

JP 191 MkII: 22K: no boot alts Bb, G#; added - CL, (dbl C). £1943

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

Standard quality:

Amati 31HL: 21K inc L3P: no boot alts Bb, G#. £2950

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 £3050

Premium quality:

Adler 1356L: 21K inc L3P: no boot alts Bb, G#; added - (dbl C). (nca UK)

Adler 1356DL: 22K inc L3P: no boot alts Bb, G#; added - high d, (dbl C). £4900

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. £5250

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). £5122

Schreiber S13: 23K inc LP3: no boot alt Bb, no boot c# trill; added - high d, (dbl C). £5399

Schreiber S17: 25K inc LP3: added - high d, (dbl C). £5914

Wolf S2000 SH: 25K: added - CL, high d. (selected woods). £POA at Howarth

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

Discount Price range approx. £5500 - £6000

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). £5500

Howarth Academy: 24K: no boot alt Bb; added - CL, high d, (dbl C). £5950

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

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 or alt C) which is not counted as an additional key. Discount Price range approx. £1800 - £8000

Budget:

Arnolds AFG 2006: 26K: added - CL, high d, wing F#/G# trill (dbl C key). £2270

J Michael: ?K: added - CL, high d, high e. £2000

JP 291: 26K: added - CL, high d, high e. £1799

Maestro: ?K: (nca UK)

Standard:

Amati ABN41(iii) HL: 25K: added - CL, high d. £2900

Amati 'Heritage' possibly Howarth variation on above £3500

Premium:

Adler 1357/4: 25K: added - CL, high d, (dbl C). £6309

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

Fox 222D long bore: 25K inc LP3: added - CL, high d. £7295

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). £5287

Moosman 111: 25K: added - CL, high d, (dbl C). £7950

Schreiber S16: 25K: added - CL, high d, (dbl C). £5914

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. £7500 - £18500

Standard:

Adler 1358/4SP: 26K: added - CL, high d, wing eb, (dbl C). £7581

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

Schreiber 5031 'Master': 26K: added - CL, high d, high e, (dbl C). £8596

Premium:

Fox 240D Short bore: 26K: added - CL, high d, high e, (dbl C). £12650

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). £12650

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

Fox 460D thick walled, long Bell: 28K: added - CL, high d, high e, (alt C). D/Eb tr, Ab/Bb tr £18300

Kronwalt: 26K: added - CL, high d, high e, £13995

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) (nca UK)

Monnig 214T: 26K: added - CL, high d, high e (dbl C). £15600

Moosman 150s: 25K: added - CL, high d, (dbl C). £11300

Puchner Premier: 25K: added - CL, high d, (dbl C). (Discontinued model)

Schreiber S71: 26K: added - CL, high d, high e. £10200

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

Wolf 'Redline' (light weight model): 27K: added - CL, high d, high e, RH Eb tr. £POA at Howarth

Professional and other Bassoons

Professional makes currently available through UK retailers: Fox/Renard from £26995 (IID 'legacy' model); Leitzinger from £21500 (model 'Exclusive'); Monnig model from £22135 ('Diamant'); Mollenhauer from £13750 (model 66 'professional'); Moosman from £13750 (model 200); Puchner from £22900 (Jubilee); Schreiber from nca UK (model S91); Yamaha from £20710 (800 series). Heckel Bassoons need to be ordered direct.

French system Bassoons uncommon (in UK) but the Buffet 5613 is available - £POA at Howarth

Contra-bassoons currently available through UK retailers: Adler from £20669 (model 1369); Amati from £12600 (model 36-OK); Fox from £36795 (model 900); Kronwalt £POA Howarth; Mollenhauer from £28650 (standard model 74); Moosman (model 300) £POA Howarth; Puchner from £43600 (model 28); Schreiber from nca UK (model 5041).

Crooks

Price range £120 - £1360; Crook extension available - £14 - Howarth

To return to home page click: www.stevetadd.co.uk