

A brief guide to available models of Clarinet (Mar 2019)

Clarinet specifications

Prices: the first price stated is usually the SSRP (the *Supplier's Suggested Retail Price*) the supplier being the manufacturer or distributor that supplies the shop where the instrument is bought; the second price is a currently available *discount price*, for example the SSRP for the Buffet Prodigé clarinet is £603 but it can currently be found at a (discount) price of £385. However, 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. The SSRP can be used to calculate the second-hand value of an instrument (which will be around half the SSRP). The SSRP is also usually the best figure to use for insurance purposes and it is often used for rental agreements. Note – where the SSRP or discount price cannot be found this is indicated by £?. Prices are from a range of 'Bricks and Mortar' shops although you may have to order through their website.

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 (although they no longer produce clarinets). 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 who have a dedicated team of in-house technicians to maintain quality standards); Distributor's 'badged' brands may be included because they are more difficult to identify.

Kinder Clarinets: Dood (plastic in C) keyless 'neo-Fife' fingering £?/29
Nuvo Clarineo model 2.0 (plastic in C) simplified key-work £?/119
JP125 now 124 Clarinet (ebonite in C) simplified key-work £299/229
Elkhart (ABS resin in C) full key-work £?/243
Kinder Klari (ABS resin in Eb) simplified key-work £179/179
Howarth Junior MX (ABS resin in Bb) minimal key-work, simple-fit lig £?/220
Howarth Junior MX plus (ABS resin in Bb) simplified key-work, simple-fit lig £?/260

Soprano clarinets

'Bb' (ring key) soprano (excluding budget instruments below £200 except Windcraft):

Note my recommendation for **all beginners** is the **Howarth Junior MX** plus listed above

Standard student: Available: Artemis £?/269; Elkhart CL450 £?/268]; Hanson Ebonite ?/£319; Leblanc CL650 £?/281; Odyssey OCL400 £?/269; Conn-Selmer Prelude 710 £290/232; Windcraft WCL100 - £?/199;

Premium student: Recommended: Buffet Prodigé £603/385 (B12 still avail at £350)
or Yamaha Ycl255s £566/415
Also available: Backun Alpha n/p keys £?/425 (s/p £?/495); Hanson HE5 ?/£449; Howarth Academy £?/349; Jupiter 700sQ £510/359; Uebel Etude ?/£505

Advanced student: Available models: Backun Beta £?/1095;) Buffet E11 £?/£699; Buffet E12F £1151/829 (Eb lever extra); Hanson SE series from £?/789; Jupiter 750sQ £838/698 or 1100sQ £?/1001 (Jcl737 model still available); Odyssey (premiere) OCL500 £779/639; Uebel 888 Classic £?/945; Yamaha Ycl450S £1031/758 (or Yamaha Ycl450M £1070/823)

Graduate: Available models: Backun Protégé £?/1475 (Eb lever extra); Buffet E13 £1599/1199 (Eb lever opt); Hanson T5 series from £?/1199; Leblanc Bliss LB200series - £1700/1600 Selmer (Seles) Prologue £1754/1290; Uebel Advantage £?/1370 (Eb lever extra); Yamaha 650 £1304/995

Professional: Available (entry level models): Backun from £?/2950 (Q series); Buffet from £2707/2295 (R13) or £2793/2360 (RC); Hanson T6 series from £?/1989; RZ 'G' model from £?/2345; Selmer Seles Presence £3209/2360 (Eb lever extra; Uebel Preference from £?/2790 (inc Eb lever); Yamaha from £2052/1559 (CX ser II)

'Bb' Plateaux soprano:

Unfortunately new Plateaux clarinets currently unavailable in the UK (these prices from 2017)
 Plastic: Vito (Holton) 7241P £?/1020 Wood: Noblet £?/1966

'A' Soprano and clarinets pairs

It is best to buy new or second-hand to match to the Bb instrument (this is simpler in respect of consistency of instrument feel and sound as well as matching barrels, mouthpieces, and cases).

'A' from £?/£595 Fairfield (New from AF+) my recommendation: Buffet E11 £1322/965
 'Bb' and 'A' pair: from £?/1664 (Buffet E11)

Harmony clarinets

Ab Sopranino: from £?

Eb Sopranino: from £870/840 (Selmer USA 1405) my recommendation: Buffet E11 £1499/1249.

D Sopranino: from £4550/4171 (Buffet RC Prestige)

C soprano: from £?/1035 (Amati 354S) my recommendation: Buffet E11 £1495/1291

Larger clarinets

BASSET HORN in F (to Low C): from £9904/8040 (Buffet1723)

BASSET CLARINET (in A): from £7783/6477 (Buffet 1223)
 Note: Howarth can make A or Bb Basset clarinet bottom joint to match customer's existing instrument

ALTO CLARINET (to Eb): from £3435/2576 (Leblanc L7165)

BASS (to E or Eb) Student models: Jupiter JBC1000N £?/1499 (JBC 675N still available for £1475); Leblanc L7168 £3435/2576; Odyssey BCL800 £?/1799; Selmer USA 1430LP £3270/1715; Yamaha 221sII £2722/2015;

BASS (to C): from £8066/6650 (Uebel Emperor)

CONTRA-ALTO (to Eb) from £5460/3728 (Leblanc L7181)
 (to C) from £?

CONTRA-BASS (to Eb) from £8495/5821 (Leblanc L7182)
 (to C) from £34287/25890 (Selmer model 41)

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