

A brief guide to available models of Clarinet (May 2021)

Clarinet specifications

Prices: the price stated is a currently available *discount price*, 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). 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 'RRP' can be used to calculate the second-hand value of an instrument (which will be around half the 'RRP'). The 'RRP' is also usually the best figure to use for insurance purposes and it is often used for rental agreements. Prices below 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 the instrument 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 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 accidentally included because they are more difficult to identify.

Kinder Clarinets:

- Dood (in C) keyless 'neo-Fife' fingering £30
- Jupiter JRS-700 (in C) 'Saxophone' chalumeau £50 (Just flutes)
- Nuvo Clarineo model 2.0 (in C) simplified key-work £120
- JP125 Clarinet (in C) simplified key-work £225
- Elkhart 100CCL (in C) full key-work (£192) currently n/a
- Kinder Klari (in Eb) simplified key-work (£179) currently n/a
- Howarth Junior MX (Bb) minimal key-work, simple-fit lig £220
- Howarth Junior MX plus (Bb) simplified key-work, simple-fit lig £260
- Hanson 'no squeak' (Bb) clarinet £439

Soprano clarinets

'Bb' (ring key) soprano (excluding budget instruments below £225 except Windcraft):

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

Standard student: Available: Artemis £255; Leblanc CL650 £281; Odyssey OCL400 £255; Conn-Selmer Prelude 710 £249; Windcraft WCL100 £205;

Premium student: Recommended: Yamaha Ycl255s £426
or B12 £349 (this old model is still available)
Also available: Backun Alpha n/p keys £431 (s/p keys £501); Buffet Prodiges £375; Hanson RG £449; Howarth Academy £349; Jupiter 700sQ £399; Uebel Etude £599; RZ Largo £425

Advanced student: Available models: Adler 912 £995 (Eb lever inc); Backun Beta £1107; Buffet E11 £725; Buffet E12F £899 (Eb lever opt); Hanson SE series from £695; Jupiter 750sQ £699 or 1100sQ £980 (Eb lever opt); Leblanc Bliss JB200 series from £1068; Odyssey (premiere) OCL500 £629; Uebel Classic £1095; Yamaha Ycl450S £794 (or Yamaha Ycl450M £838)

Graduate: Available models: Backun Protégé £1499 (Eb lever opt); Buffet E13 from £1299 (Eb lever opt); Hanson T5 series from £1239; Leblanc Bliss LB200 series £1720; Selmer (Seles) Prologue £1285; Uebel Advantage £1487 (Eb lever opt); Yamaha 650 £1030

Professional: Available (entry level models): Backun from £2495 (Q series); Buffet Gala from £2142, R13 from £2245, or RC from £2435; Hanson T6 series from £2079; RZ 'G' model from £2345; Selmer Seles Presence £2392 (Eb lever opt); Uebel Superior £3178; Yamaha from £1800 (CX ser II)

'Bb' Plateaux soprano:

Ebonite: Hanson 'No squeak' £439

Plastic: Vito (Holton) 7241P (£1020) currently n/a

Wood: Noblet (£1966) currently n/a

Popular Harmony & Bass clarinets

Avoid budget Harmony instruments (under £300)

'Eb' Soprano

from £746 (Selmer USA 1405)

my recommendation: Buffet E11 £1295.

'C' soprano

my recommendation: Buffet E11 £1495/1291-1275
also available Amati 354S £1319

'A' Soprano

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).

from £595 Fairfield JCL210

my recommendation: Buffet E11 £1150

BASS (to E or Eb)

Student models: Jupiter JBC1000N £1589; Conn-Selmer USA 1430LP £1971; Leblanc-Vito L7168 £2769; Odyssey BCL800 £1749; Yamaha 221sII £2259;

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