

A brief guide to available models of Oboe (Jul 2019)

Oboe 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 price stated is the best discount price I've found (retailers usually offer a discount on the SSRP price); £? indicates unknown figure; nca means 'not currently available' (new in UK). 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 the level of customer service provided. The SSRP is usually the best figure to use for insurance purposes, is often used for rental agreements, and can be used to calculate the second-hand value of an instrument (which will be around half the SSRP).

Key-work: the models are described with particular reference to their key-work because that is what is of immediate relevance to the player (although there will be other variations between models). Note – in the UK teachers usually expect students to have Oboes with a Low Bb key (except on the beginner instruments listed below).

Abbreviations: LH =left-hand; RH = right-hand; 1 = 1st finger; alt = alternate. TP = Thumb-plate system (only); Cons = Conservatoire system (only); Dual = Dual system; Semi = semi-automatic Octave mechanism; Auto = Automatic Octave system (German system).

Budget Brands: these are not included in the price lists below due to the inconsistency in the quality of instruments.

Beginner Instruments (to grade 3)

Preferably either use a school Oboe, or rent an Oboe (recommended: Howarth Junior Oboe), or buy a second-hand old student Oboe in reasonable condition (such as Boosey & Hawkes, Buescher, Buisson, Elkhart, Evette, Lafleur, Lintone, Louis, Selmer USA). If buying new, then consider the Howarth Junior Oboe or skip to an instrument suitable up to grade 6. Avoid budget priced Oboes.

Recommended: Howarth Junior Oboe – with reduced key-work suitable up to grade 3
Thumb-plate model: SSRP £?/995 (Cons model available: SSRP £?/1300)
[also Oscar Adler 100 (Cons) reduced keywork to Low C SSRP £?/£1571]

Standard Student Instruments (to grade 6+ - Disc price range £1000 - £1520)

Minimum key-work requirement: F vent, low Bb, LH (C/D) trill, LH 1 spatula A#/B trill. Thumb-plate system (TP) or Dual system is preferred by Teachers in UK.

Recommended: Yamaha YOB241B (dual - UK Only to Low B) SSRP £?/1440
Other models: new Buffet 4131 Prodigé (TP) SSRP £1670/1345 (old 4121 model (TP) still available (£?/999); Howarth S10 (TP) SSRP £1625/1519; Schreiber 7130 (TP) nca in UK.

Advanced Student Instruments (to grade 8+ - Disc price range £1670 - £2650)

Minimum key-work requirement - as above plus: semi-automatic octave system, 2+1 trills (LH C/D and C#/D# plus alternate touch-piece for RH).

Recommended: Buffet 4151 (Dual) SSRP £?/1669
Other models: Buffet 4052 (Cons) nca in UK; Bulgheroni FB-091/TP (Dual) nca in UK; Fox/Renard 333 protégé (Cons?) nca in UK; Howarth S20 (TP) SSRP £2375/2256 [or Howarth S20C (Cons) £2625/2625]; Patricola model PT SB1 (TP) SSRP £2604/2396; Schreiber 7150-2-0 (TP) nca in UK

Graduate Instruments (Disc Price range £2500 - £5275)

Minimum key-work requirement - as above plus: 3rd Octave key, plateaux keys, long F, alt RH G#, and Bell vent, (usually also Low B/C link or articulated low C#). Dual system and semi-automatic Octave mechanism are preferred by Teachers in UK.

Suitable instruments (not all made of wood):

Adler 5000/20TP (Dual) SSRP £3891/3138

(or Adler 4000 and 6000 series also if fitted with Thumb-plate)

Bulgheroni FB-095 or 101,105 with required keys as listed above (nca in UK)

Buffet 4052 (Cons+semi+3rd Oct) nca in UK

[or Buffet 4057 (Cons+Auto+3rd Oct) nca in UK]

Cabart 74 model (Dual+Semi+3rd Oct) model SSRP £?/3475

[or (Cons) model SSRP £?/3325]

Fosatti (Tiery) model J40 TP (TP+Semi+3rd Oct) SSRP £2820/2500

Fosatti (Tiery) model J40 TP (Dual+Semi+3rd Oct) SSRP £3703/3250

Fox Renard Artist 330 (Cons?) SSRP nca in UK

[or Artist 335 (Cons?) in wood nca in UK]

Howarth S40C(T) (Dual+semi+3rd Oct) SSRP £3595/3415

[or Howarth S40C (Cons+Semi+3rd Oct) SSRP £?/3360]

[or Howarth S40C (Cons+Auto+3rd Oct) SSRP £?/4000]

Howarth S45C(T) (Dual+Semi+3rd Oct + thick wall) SSRP £4425/4203

Howarth S50C (Cons+Semi+3rd Octave + full Gillet system) SSRP?/4770

Patricola PT SC1 (TP) SSRP £2919/2687

Rigoutat-Riec standard model (Dual) nca in UK

[or standard model (Cons) nca in UK]

Marigaux-Strasser model 701 (?+Semi+3rd Oct) SSRP?/3995

Strasser-Marigaux standard model 801 (Dual+Semi+3rd Oct) SSRP £?/5275

[or standard model 801 (Cons) SSRP£?/4975]

Yamaha YOB431 (Dual, wood) SSRP £3760/2845

Yamaha YOB431M (Dual, wood + resin) SSRP £3804/2566

Professional Instruments (Disc Price range from £6000)

Suitable instruments (entry level models):

Buffet (Dual) BC3613 'Prestige' models from £7179/6461 or BC3663 'Orfeo' models from £?/6410; Bulgheroni 'Opera' nca in UK; Fox/Renard (Cons?) model 400 nca in UK; New Howarth S6 (TP light-weight) SSRP £?/6600 or (Dual) models XL, XM, LXV from £?/7700; Loree (Dual) from £?/6025 'Standard' Model; Ludwig Frank (Dual) from £?-?/8200-8800 'Brilliant' model; Marigaux (Dual) from £?/8475 model 901; Monnig (Dual) from £?/7950 (model 150 AM TP; Rigoutat (Dual) from £?/6295 models 'Classic', 'Symphony', 'Evolution', and 'J'); Yamaha (Dual) from £7701/5598 (YOB831B).

Larger Instruments

Cor Anglais entry models:

Monnig-Adler from £5374/4133 (model 160); Cabart (Cons?) from £?/5593 (model ref 'x+3'); Fosatti Tiery (Dual) from £4898/4299 (model CA40); Fox/Renard from (model 555) nca in UK; Old Howarth S20 model still available SSRP £4395/4395 ; new Howarth model (Dual) from SSRP £?/5600 (small hands model S30C) or model S40C £?/5395 ; Loree (Dual) from £?/7295 (model ref 'l+3 TP'); Marigaux (Dual) from £?/8595 (Model 930); Monnig (Dual) from £?/9550 ('Diamant'); Rigoutat (Dual) from £?/7450 ('Standard' Model).

Oboe d'amore from: £?/7895 Loree; £?/8550 Howarth XL; £?/? Monnig (Wagner model)

Bass Oboe from: Loree £?/? or Monnig £?/12,800

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