

A brief guide to available models of Oboe (Aug 2021)

Oboe 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. Many models of Oboe are not currently available to buy new within the UK but could be available second-hand – these instruments are indicated by square brackets [].

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: £1020 (Cons model available in two versions: Junior £1350 and Junior 'plus' £1645)
[Oscar Adler 100 (Cons) reduced keywork to Low C]

Standard Student Instruments (to grade 6+ - Disc price range £1650 - £1700)

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-30 (dual - UK model to Low Bb) £1665
Also available: Buffet 4131 Prodige (TP) £1670; Howarth S10 (TP) £1695;
[Schreiber 7130 (TP)].

Advanced Student Instruments (to grade 8+ - Disc price range £1650 - £2750)

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: Yamaha YOB241B-30 (dual - UK model to Low Bb) £1665
Also available: Buffet 4151 (Dual) £1736; Howarth S20 (TP) £2475 or

Howarth S20C (Cons) from £2750;

[Buffet 4052 (Cons); Bulgheroni FB-091/TP (Dual); Fox/Renard 333 protégé (Cons?); Patricola model PT SB1(TP); Schreiber 7150-2-0 (TP)]

Graduate Instruments (Disc Price range £2700 - £4900)

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) £1999 sale price at Trevor Jones

[Adler 4000 and 6000 series also if fitted with Thumb-plate]

Bulgheroni (Cons?) 896 model £4195

[Bulgheroni FB-095 or 101,105 with required keys as listed above]

[Buffet 4052 (Cons+semi+3rd Oct)]

[Buffet 4057 (Cons+Auto+3rd Oct)]

Cabart 74 model (Dual+Semi+3rd Oct) model £4135

Cabart 74 (Cons) model £3870

Fosatti (Tiery) model J40 CTP (Dual+Semi+3rd Oct) £2896

Fosatti (Tiery) model E40 CTP (Dual+Semi+3rd Oct) £3813

[Fox/Renard Artist 330 (Cons?)]

[Fox/Renard Artist 335 (Cons?) in wood]

Howarth S40C(T) (Dual+semi+3rd Oct) £3755

(or Howarth S40C French (Cons+Semi+3rd Oct) from £3460)

(or Howarth S40C German (Cons+Auto+3rd Oct) from £4205)

Howarth S45C(T) (Dual+Semi+3rd Oct + thick wall) £4675

Howarth S50C (Cons+Semi+3rd Octave + full Gillet system) from £4915

Patricola PT SC1 (TP) £2687

Rigoutat-Riec standard model (Dual) special order from Howarth

(or standard model (Cons) special order from Howarth

Marigaux-Strasser model 701 (Cons?+Semi+3rd Oct) £4695

[Marigaux-Strasser standard model 801 (Dual+Semi+3rd Oct)]

[Marigaux-Strasser standard model 801 (Cons)]

Yamaha YOB431 (Dual, wood) £3078 or Yamaha YOB431M (Dual, wood + resin) £3037

Professional Instruments (Disc Prices from £6000)

Suitable instruments (entry level models):

Buffet (Dual) from £6410 (BC3613 'Prestige'), (Cons version) from £6110 or BC3663 'Orfeo' models

(Dual) from £6410, (Cons) from £?; [Bulgheroni 'Opera' (Cons?)]; [Fox/Renard (Cons?) model 400]

Howarth (TP) from £7050 (S6 light-weight) or Howarth models XL, XM, LXV (Dual) from £8050,

(Cons) from £7885; Loree (Dual) from £6245 ('Standard'), (Cons version) from £5975; Ludwig

Frank (Dual) from £8800 ('Brilliant'), (Cons version) from £8500; Marigaux (Dual) from £8925

(model 901P), (Cons) from £7965 (model 901); [Monnig model 150 AM TP (Dual)], Monnig (Dual)

from £9950 (model 155 AM TP), (Cons) from £8420 (Model 155 AM-B); Rigoutat (Dual) from £7450

('Classic'), (Cons version) from £7150; Yamaha (Dual) from £5598 (YOB831B), (Cons) from £6373

(YOB831L).

Cor Anglais (Disc Prices from £4750)

Entry level models:

Monnig-Adler (Cons?) from £4750 (model 160); Cabart (Cons?) from £5595 (model ref 'x+3');

Fosatti Tiery (Dual) from £4876 (model CA40); Fox/Renard (Dual) from £9200 (model 580), (Cons)

from £8900 (model 580); Howarth (Dual) from £4800 (model S20); Loree (Dual) from £8385

(model 'I+3 TP'), (Cons) from £8120; Marigaux (Dual) from £9470 (model 930), (Cons) from £9170

(model 930); Monnig (Dual) from £10815 ('Diamant'), (Cons) from £10515 ('Diamant'); Patricola

(Dual) from £4466 (model 'F'); Rigoutat (Dual) from £8775 ('Standard' Model), (Cons) from £8475

('Standard' Model).

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