

STEVE TADD WOODWIND REPAIRS (.co.uk)

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A brief guide to models of Piccolo available (Mar 2022)

Piccolo 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.

Materials: the models are described with particular reference to what materials the body and head-joint are made of, and the design of the embouchure surface, because these factors are of immediate relevance to the player (although there will be other variations between models).

Abbreviations: CB= composite body; PB= plastic body; RB= resin body; SPB= silver-plated body; SSB= solid silver body; WB= wood body; CH= composite head; PH= plastic head-joint; RH= resin head-joint; SPH= silver-plated head-joint; GPH= gold-plated head-joint; SSH= solid silver head-joint; WH= wood head-joint; TE= traditional style embouchure (no lip-plate); FL= flute style lip-plate; RLP= reform style lip-plate; WC= wave cut style embouchure (reform style embouchure without lip-plate); SSK = solid silver keys.

Brands: there can be confusion over what constitutes a 'brand'.

Some brands are owned by manufacturers who completely control the production of the branded instrument – they design the instrument, they own the factories where the instrument is made (regardless of where the factories are located), and they 'set-up' the instrument ready for supply to the retailer - the brand name they use might be their own company name (such as Yamaha) or a name they created for promotion purposes (e.g. Jupiter is a brand name owned by KHS). This type of brand tends to be manufactured to a consistent quality.

Some brands are owned by companies who are not really manufacturers at all – they do not own the factories where the instruments are made but instead 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 - the brand name they use might be their own company name (such as Trevor J James) or a name they created for promotion purposes (e.g. Artemis is a brand name owned by Trevor J James). 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 supplier) buys a container shipment of 'blank' instruments and simply puts a 'badge name' on the instrument – there is no consistency with this type of brand because the same badge name might be used for another container shipment of instruments from a different factory that is making the instrument to a different specification. For this reason various shops' own 'badged' brand instruments are not included (when identifiable).

Student models

Discount Price range £300 to £625

Recommended: YPC32 (PB+SPH / FL) £599

Also available: Arnolds 'Terra' APC110 (WB+WH/RLP) £565; Guo 'new voice' (CB+CH/FL) £625; Jupiter 303S (PB+SPH/FL) £369; Trevor James 3PSP/Kurioshi P1 'Vivace' (PB+SPH/FL) £345; Trevor James 5x (CB+CH/RLP) £299; Trevor James 3TPC (CB+CH/FL) £399.

Student head-joints

New silver-plated Piccolo head-joints sometimes available on EBay from £40.
New Wood from £350 Yamaha (YPC62)

Advanced student models

Discount Price range £800 to £1450

Recommended: PFP-105E (RB+RH/WC) £870

(*Note the PFP-105/OM version of above – £899 and the PFP-165E model below are fitted with pads that are difficult to source).

Also available: Guo 'Grenaditte' (CB+CH/FL) £995); Pearl PFP-165E (RB+WH/WC) £1136 see note above*; Trevor James GR (3TPWTR Grenadilla) model (WB+WH/WC) £799; Trevor James GVR (Rosewood) model £1050; Yamaha YPC62 (WB+WH/TE) £1199; Yamaha YPC62M (WB+SPH/FL) £1299; Yamaha YPC62R (WB+WH/WC) £1444.

Graduate models

Discount Price range £2300 to £3200

Available models: Burkhart & Phelan 'Resona' (WB+WH/TE or WC) £2695; Hammig (Phillip) 650 series from £3211; Haynes 'Amadeus' AP86W (WB+WH/TE or WC) £2295; Yamaha YPC81C (WB+WH/TE) £2682; Yamaha YPC81R (WB+WH/WC) £2995; Yamaha YPC82C (WB+SHJ/FL) £2599.

Professional models

Discount prices from £3700

Manufacturers: Bulgheroni from £3695 (401 series); L. Burkhart from £5695 (Professional B-PWE model); Hammig (JG) from £3800 (750 series); Keefe from £9795 (hand-made model); Powell from £5250 (Signature model); Yamaha from £5927 (Yamaha YPC91C).

Graduate & Professional Head-joints

Price Range from £400 - £1700

Makers or manufacturers: Bigio, Braun, Bulgheroni, Burkhart, Flute Masters, Hammig, Junker, Mancke, McLaughlin.

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