

A brief guide to available models of Saxophones (Jun 2020)

Saxophone 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.

Brands: there can be confusion over what constitutes a 'brand'. Some brands are owned by manufacturers – they design, build, and set up instruments for supply to a distributor or direct 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. 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 often 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, retailers' and distributors' own badged brands are not included below (with the exception of Windcraft and Howarth who have a dedicated team of in-house technicians to maintain quality standards); distributors' badged brands might be accidentally included because they are more difficult to identify.

Sopranissimo

The 'Soprillo' by Benedikt Eppelsheim £4199

Sopranino

Straight Sopraninos are more reliable and cheaper to repair than curved, avoid budget instruments.

Available instruments: Keilworth 'JK1300' £5027; P.Mauriat 'L'Allouette' £2899; Rampone & Cazzani 'R1' from £2949; Selmer (France) 'SA80 sII' from £9820; Yanagisawa 'SN981' from £2425.

Soprano

If possible, avoid budget priced instruments (new below £800). Straight sopranos are more reliable and cheaper to repair.

Children's models: 'Jsax' by Nuvo – soprano in C plastic £88

Standard Entry level: Recommended: Jupiter '547GL' £995

Available models: Bauhaus Walstein 'SSS-OY' from £635; Conn-Selmer 'Avant DSS180' from £1099; Elkhart 'SXSOP' from £749; Jupiter '1000Q' from £1329; Trevor James 'Horn' from £729; Vito from £899; Windcraft 'WSS-200' from £1038.

Premium Student: Available Models: Antigua 'Pro-One' from £1735; Conn-Selmer 'Premiere PS380' from £1736; Hanson 'series V' from £1130; Howarth 'Chiltern S900' from £1385; Keilwerth 'ST90' from £1369; P.Mauriat 'Le Bravo' from £1799; System 54 'PB' from £1283; Trevor James 'Horn 88' from £1729; Yamaha 'YSS475 sII' from £1745;

Professionals favour: Yanagisawa from £2368 'S901' or new model 'SW01' from £2595

(Entry models) Also available: Eastman 52nd street from £2523; Hanson from £2310 (LX); Keilwerth from £4675 (1300-8DL); Lupifaro from £2000 (Platinum series); P.Mauriat from £2149 (system 76); Rampone & Cazzani from £2949 (R1); Selmer (France) from £3849 (SA80 sII Jubilee); Theo Wanne from £2749 (Mantra); Yamaha from £3499 (YSS82Z).

Alto

Excluding budget instruments below £400 (new)

Children's models: Roy Benson 'child's sax' – £499; Trevor James Alpha £419; Conn 655 (adapted keys and neck) £599

Standard student: Recommended: Jupiter 500Q series £699;
or Yamaha YAS280 £835

Also available: Aquae Sulis from £495; Buffet '100 series' from £589; Chateau 'Valencay' from £435; Conn 'AS650' from £629; Conn-Selmer 'DS180' from £849; Earlham '309' from £790 or 'ser II' from £799; Eastman 'EAS253' from £799; Elkhart 'SXAD' from £628; Hanson 'Series V lite' from £499; Howarth 'Academy' from £550; Jean Paul USA from £619; Pro-sound 'Jazz' from £499; Trevor James 'The horn' from £565 or 'Horn Classic II' from £589; Trevor James/Kurioshi 'Vivace' from £499; Windcraft 'WAS-110' from £435;

Premium student: Recommended: Jupiter 700 series £890
(to Graduate) or Trevor James 'SR-Evo' £895 or 'Horn 88' £950

Also available: Amati 'AAS83K Charisma' from £1805; Arnold 'AAS300 Terra' from £978; Buffet '(8)400 series' from £1125; Conn-Selmer 'PAS-380' from £1576; Chateau 'Chenonceau' from £1132; Hanson 'Series V' from £930 or 'Series VIII' from £1650; Howarth 'Chiltern A900B' from £1475; Jupiter '1100 series' from £1499; Keilwerth 'ST90' from £1037; P.Mauriat 'SA-185' from £1199 or 'Le Bravo' from £1589; Selmer (USA) 'Liberty' from £1349; Theo Wayne 'Shakti' from £1699; Trevor James '(SR)-SR' from £1279; Windcraft 'WAS-200' from £1067; Yamaha 'YAS480' from £1499

Professionals favour: Recommended: Yamaha from £2199 (YAS62 series IV)
or Yanigisawa from £2199 (AW01)

(Entry models) Also available: Buffet from £3850 (Senzo); Canonball from £2204 (A4); Chateau £1810 (Versailles); Eastman £2773 (652RL); Hanson from £2310 (LX); Keilwerth from £2494 (SX90R); P.Mauriat from £2399 (PMXA-67) or from £2170 (system 76); Rampone & Cazzani from £3349 (R1 OT); Selmer (France) from £2222 (Seles Axos) or from £3785 (SA80sII); System 54R from £1788 (Powerbell); Theo Wayne from £2799 (Narayan); Trevor James from £1999 (SC-RAW); Wood Stone from £3499 (Vintage)

Tenor

Excluding budget instruments below £450 (new)

Standard student: Recommended: TJ Horn Classic II £899
or Jupiter 500Q £945=975

Also available: Antigua '3100' from £750; Buffet '100 series' from £875; Chateau 'Cherverny' from £565 or 'Valencay' from £689; Conn 'TS650' from £799; Earlham 'professional' from £699; Eastman 'ETS223' from £1099; Elkhart 'TS100' from £632 or 'SXTD' from £999; Festivo from £650; Jean Paul USA 'TS400' from £799; Trevor James 'The horn' from £949; Trevor James/Kurioshi 'Vivace' from £699; Windcraft 'WTS 100' from £707.

Premium student: Recommended: Yamaha YTS280 £1292
(to Graduate) or Trevor James 'SR-Evo' £1149
or Jupiter 700Q £1230

Also available: Buffet '(8)400' series from £1199; Chateau 'Chambord' from £1285 or 'Chenonceau' from £1475; Conn-Selmer 'Avant ATS180' from £1299 or 'PTS-380V' from £2082; Hanson 'Series V' from £1170 or 'Series VIII' from £1770; Jupiter '1100' from £1799; Eastman 'ETS223' from £1099; Keilwerth 'ST90' from £1350 or 'EX90' from £1999; P.Mauriat 'ST180' from £1699 or 'Le Bravo' from £1757; Selmer USA 'Liberty' from £1449; Trevor James 'Horn 88' £1300 or '(SR)-SR' from £1599; Windcraft 'WTS 200' from £1357; Yamaha 'YTS480' £1999.

Professionals favour: Yanagisawa TW01 £2685

(Entry Models) Also available: Andy Sheppard from £4995; Canonball from £2369 (T4); Chateau from £2218 (Versailles); Eastman 52nd street from £2999 (ETS-652RL); Hanson from £2520 (LX); Keilworth from £3618 (SX90R/3400-8-0); Lupifaro from £3999 (PS); P.Mauriat from £2560 (66R) or from £2999 (system 76); Rampone & Cazzani from £3799 (R1); Selmer (France) from £3199 (Seles Axos) or from £4649 (SA80 SII-Jubilee); System 54 from £1910 (Core); Trevor James from £3049 (SC-RAW); Woodstone £4138 (Vintage); Yamaha from £2599 (YTS62).

Baritone

Cheaper instruments tend to have weak tone and poor intonation on middle and top register.

Entry level: Recommended: Jupiter 1000 series £2599

Also available: Buffet '(8)400 series' from £2999; Chateau 'Cherverny' from £2215; Conn 'BS650' from £2700; Conn-Selmer '180G' from £3399; Elkhart 'SXB' from £2999; Festivo from £2350; Howarth 'Chiltern B8810' from £3615; Hanson 'Series VIII' from £4200; Keilwerth 'ST90' from £3419; Trevor James 'Horn Classic II' from £2550; Trevor James/Kurioshi 'Vivace' from £2149; Windcraft 'WBS-200' from £3488; Yamaha from £4250 (YBS-32E) or from £5445 (YBS480).

Professionals favour: Yanigisawa BWO1 from £4799

Also available: Hanson from £5355 (LX); Keilwerth from £6780 (SX90); P.Mauriat from £4399 (Le Bravo); Selmer (France) from £8515 (SA80 sII-Jubilee); System 54 from £3540; Trevor James from £4399 (SR-SR); Yamaha from £6700 (YBS-62)

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