

## **A brief guide to available Bassoons (Nov 2024)**

### **Bassoon specifications**

**Prices:** each price stated is a currently available *discount price* found advertised in one or more UK 'Bricks and Mortar' shops although you may have to order through their website. 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.

**Key-work:** the models are described with particular reference to their key-work although there will be other variations between models. There is no universal method of counting key-work - most manufacturers include the crook key as one of the standard 23 keys, and count the crook lock (CL) as an added key; in contrast the left hand finger III plate (LP3), the extra plate for the double Low C key (dble C or alt C), and any extra plate keys on short-reach instruments (left hand finger II plate - LP2, and right hand finger I plate - RP1) are not usually counted as extra keys. In the descriptions below, the total number of standard keys is stated first (if known) then any plate keys (if known), then the omitted standard keys (the omitted LH3 Eb vent link is in brackets because it is not a counted key), then added (and counted) key-work, finishing with added but uncounted key-work in brackets - so looking at the Amati 33HL below it has 22 counted keys, it also has three plate keys (L3P, L2P, R1P), it does *not* have the standard alternative boot Bb or the standard alternative boot G# but it does have an added crook lock.

**Abbreviations:** some manufacturers use the letter M to indicate a matt finish, L to indicate a lacquer finish, and T to indicate thick wall. The basic model 'spec' is given below but manufacturers frequently offer optional extra keys (at a charge) so it is common to find the same model listed in different shops but with slightly different specifications (be wary!). A question mark indicates unknown or not found; nca indicates not currently available (new) in UK music shops, and nca UK means you could possibly buy direct from the manufacturer or via an importer.

### **'Mini-Bassoons' (and Tenoroons) for children (pitched a 5<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> higher)**

These are smaller instruments than the standard sized and 'shortened' bassoons and thus they are at a higher pitch.

#### **Budget quality:**

Elkhart Mini-Bassoon (in F, black plastic, reduced key-work 16K?) £1095

Ludlow Mini-Bassoon (in G, black plastic, reduced key-work -16K) £1800

#### **Standard/Premium quality:**

Bassetto 'Fagottino' B65 Mini-Bassoon (in G, Wood, reduced key-work). (nca UK)

Howarth 'Mini-Bassoon plus' (in G, Wood, reduced key-work:16K) £3456

Bassetto 'Fagottino' B95 Mini-Bassoon (in G, Wood, reduced key-work) £3195

Howarth 'Tenoroon' (in F, Wood, reduced key-work:16K) £3510

Wolf Fg5 'Quint Mini-Bassoon' (in G, reduced key-work:16K). (nca UK - Import £2999)

Wolf Fg4 'Quart Mini-Bassoon' (in F, reduced key-work:16K) (nca UK - Import £3399)

## **'Shortened' Bassoons to Low C only (no Low B or Bb)**

'Shortened' Bassoons have no bell and no keys for (the rarely used) Low B and Bb – thus the length of the bore is shorter but the rest of the instrument is standard size and at standard pitch, although some of the alternate keys and trill keys are also omitted.

### **For primary school children**

Heyday's - Fagonello (Basic) Bassoon: 11K? inc LP3: no boot alts Bb, G#, F#, no boot c# trill, no boot ring key; no wing f# trill, (no LH3 Eb vent link), no crook key, either no high A (or C?); no Bass Eb, C#, B, and Bb. (nca UK – Import via Howarth? Apprx €3600)

Heyday's - Fagonello (Chromatic) Bassoon: 13K? inc LP3: no alt boot alts Bb, G#, F#, no boot c# trill, no boot ring key; no wing f# trill, (no LH3 Eb vent link), no crook key, either no high A (or C?); no Bass B and Bb. (nca UK – Import via Howarth? Apprx €3800)

### **For secondary school children (or adult beginners)**

Adler C 1350 'mini' (in C) Bassoon: 15K inc LP3: no boot alts Bb, G#, F#, no boot c# trill; no wing f# trill, no crook key, (no LH3 Eb vent link); no Bass B and Bb. (nca UK)

Adler C 1350P 'mini' (in C) Bassoon: 16K inc LP3: no boot alts Bb, G#, F#, no boot c# trill; no wing f# trill, (no LH3 Eb vent link); no Bass B and Bb. £4250

Amati 32C 'Vantage' Bassoon: 16K inc LP3: no boot alts Bb, G#, F#, no boot c# trill; no wing f# trill, (no LH3 Eb vent link); no Bass B and Bb. £4750

## **Student Bassoons (short-Reach)**

The standard number of keys is 23, but 'short-reach' Bassoons are modified in various ways for smaller hands (not necessarily children's) sometimes by adding 1 or more (uncounted) plate keys to cover difficult to reach holes and often omitting the (counted) alternative boot Bb and alternative boot G# keys to create the common 21 key instrument (however sometimes a crook lock and a high d key are then added).

### **Budget quality:**

JP 191 MkII: 22K: no boot alts Bb, G#; added – CL, (dbl C). £2162

Tuyama Etude: ?K: no alt boot G#; added – CL, (dbl C). [nca]

Tuyama TFG-231: 25K: no boot alt Bb; added – CL, (dbl C) high D, high E (Amazon £1543)

### **Standard quality:**

Amati 31HL: 21K inc L3P: no boot alts Bb, G#. £4200

Amati 32N: 18K inc L3P: no boot alts Bb, G#, F#, no boot c# trill; no wing f# trill. [nca UK]

Amati 33HL: 22K inc L3P (+L2P+RP1): no boot alts Bb, G#; added – CL. £4380

### **Premium quality:**

Adler 1356L: 21K inc L3P: no boot alts Bb, G#; added - (dbl C). [nca]

Adler 1356DL: 22K inc L3P: no boot alts Bb, G#; added - high d, (dbl C) .[nca]

Adler 1356(?): 24K inc L3P; no boot alts Bb, added - high d, (dbl C). £7008

Fox 51: 20K inc LP3: no boot alts Bb, G#, no boot c# trill. [nca UK]

Fox 41 (semi short reach?): 23 K inc LP3. [nca UK]

Howarth Academy: 19K inc LP3: no boot alts Bb, G#, no boot c# trill; no wing f# trill. £5900

Moosman 96: 19K inc L3: no boot alts Bb, G#, no boot c# trill; no wing f# trill. [nca UK]

Schreiber S10: 22K: no boot alts Bb, G#, no boot c# trill; added - CL, high d, [dbl C]. £6500

Schreiber S13: 23K inc LP3: no boot alt Bb, no boot c# trill; added - high d, [dbl C]. £6825

Schreiber S17: 25K inc LP3: added - high d, (dbl C). £7600

Wolf S2000 SH: 25K: added - CL, high d. (selected woods). £7500

## **Student Bassoons (not short-reach but with reduced key work)**

### **Premium:**

Adler 1357/120 (W): 23K: no boot alts Bb, G#; added - CL, high d, (dbl C). [nca]

Adler 1357/125: 24K: no boot alt Bb; added - CL, high d, (dbl C). [nca]

Howarth Academy: 24K: no boot alt Bb; added - CL, high d, (dbl C). £6750

G Mollenhauer 'student' model: 22K: no boot alts Bb, G#, no boot c# trill; added - CL, high d, (dbl C). [nca UK]

Moosman 100: 22K: no boot alt Bb, no boot c# trill; no wing f# trill; added - CL, high d. [nca UK]

### **Student Bassoons (standard key-work)**

Modern student instruments usually have a crook lock and a high d in addition to the standard 23 keys instrument creating the common 25 key instrument, often they also have a double Low C key (dbl C or alt C) which is not counted as an additional key.

#### **Budget:**

Arnolds AFG 2006: 26K: added - CL, high d, wing F#/G# trill (dbl C key). [nca UK]

J Michael BS1800: 26K: added - CL, high d, high e. [nca UK]

JP 291: 26K: added - CL, high d, high e. £2162

Maestro: ?K: [nca UK]

#### **Standard:**

Amati ABN41(iii) HL: 25K: added - CL, high d. £3995

Amati 800 'Heritage' possibly Howarth variation on above £4750

#### **Premium:**

Adler 1357/4: 25K: added - CL, high d, (dbl C). £6443

Fox 242D short bore: 25K inc LP3: added - CL, high d. [nca]

Fox 222D long bore: 25K inc LP3: added - CL, high d. £9072

Fox model IV (plastic) long bore: 24K: added - high d. [nca UK]

Fox model III (plastic) long bore: 25K: added - CL, high d. [nca UK]

Monnig 208: 25K: added - CL, high d, (dbl C). [nca]

Moosman 111: 25K: added - CL, high d, (dbl C). £8700

Schreiber S16: 25K: added - CL, high d, (dbl C). £7093

Wolf S2000: 25K: added - CL, high d. (sycamore maple). £4800

### **Graduate Bassoons**

Graduate instruments have as standard a high d key, crook lock (CL), and the double Low C key (dbl C). They usually also have a high e key and wing eb key (for left-hand wing fingers).

#### **Standard:**

Adler 1358/4SP: 26K: added - CL, high d, wing eb, (dbl C). £7995

Adler 1361: 27K: added - CL, high d, high e, wing eb, Ab/Bb trill? (dbl C). £9642

Schreiber S31: 26K: added - CL, high d, high e, (dbl C). £10791

#### **Premium:**

Fox 240D Short bore: 26K: added - CL, high d, high e, (dbl C). £13344

Fox 220D Long bore: 26K: added - CL, high d, high e, (dbl C). [nca]

Fox 250D as 220D but Red Maple (not Black Maple). £13393

Fox 260D as 240D (but thick-walled?) [nca]

Fox 460D thick walled, long Bell: 28K: added - CL, high d, high e, (alt C). D/Eb tr, Ab/Bb tr.[nca UK]

Kronwalt: 26K: added - CL, high d, high e, £13995

G Mollenhauer 'Orchestra' model: 25K?: added - CL, high d, (dbl C). £9995

Monnig 212: 27K: added - CL, high d, high e, wing eb (dbl C) [nca]

Monnig 214T: 26K: added - CL, high d, high e (dbl C). £15959

Moosman 150s: 25K: added - CL, high d, (dbl C). £12480

Puchner Premier: 25K: added - CL, high d, (dbl C). [nca]

Schreiber S71: 26K: added - CL, high d, high e. £15810

Wolf S2000+: 26K: added - CL, high d, high e. (flamed sycamore maple) £9995

Wolf S2000+V: 26K: added - CL, high d, high e. (Bird's eye maple) £10500

Wolf 'Redline' (light weight model): 27K: added - CL, high d, high e, RH Eb tr. From £17695

## **Professional and other Bassoons**

Professional makes currently available through UK retailers: Fox/Renard from £34375 (660D); Leitzinger from £23800 (model 'Exclusive'); Monnig model from £24600 ('Diamant'); Mollenhauer from £13750 (model 66 'professional'); Moosman from £15000 (model 200) or from £13800 'compact' model 211); Puchner from £25700 (Jubilee); Schreiber model S91 [nca UK]; Yamaha from £26464 (800 series). Heckel Bassoons need to be ordered direct.

French system Bassoons uncommon (in UK) but the Buffet '5613' is available. £16300  
Baroque Bassoon by Wolf (model HKICW) £5300

Contra-bassoons currently available through UK retailers: Adler from £23733 (model 1369); Amati from £16800 (model 36-OK); Fox from £42450 (model 900); Kronwalt £43085; Mollenhauer from £31350 (standard model 74); Moosman (model 300) £36000; Puchner from £48250 (model 28); Schreiber model 5041 [nca UK].

## **Crooks**

Price range £120 - £1360; Crook extension available - £21 - Howarth

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