

A brief guide to available models of Clarinet (Jul 2025)

Clarinet specifications

Prices: the price stated is a currently available *discount price*, 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). 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. The 'RRP' can be used to calculate the second-hand value of an instrument (which will be around half the 'RRP'). The 'RRP' is also usually the best figure to use for insurance purposes, and it is often used for rental agreements. 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 the instrument ready for supply 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 no consistency with this type of brand because these blank instruments can originate from different sources. For this reason, shop's own 'badged' brands are not included below (with the exception of Windcraft who have a dedicated team of in-house technicians to maintain quality standards); Distributor's 'badged' brands may be accidentally included because they are more difficult to identify.

Kinder Clarinets:

Buffet 'Prodige Pocket clarinet' (in D) £199
Dood (in C) keyless 'neo-Fife' fingering £29
Jupiter 'JRS-700' (in C) 'Saxonette' chalumeau £65
Nuvo 'Clarineo' model 2.0 (in C) simplified key-work £125
Nuvo 'NuvoBand' NB200 (in Bb) reduced keywork (no top 3 trills) £199
John Packer 'JP125' Clarinet (in C) simplified key-work £258
Elkhart '100CCL' (in C) full key-work (£316) currently n/a *
Kinder Klari (in Eb) simplified key-work (£179) currently n/a
Howarth 'Junior MX' (Bb) minimal key-work, simple-fit lig (£375) currently n/a
Howarth 'Junior MX+' (Bb) simplified key-work, simple-fit lig (£420) currently n/a
Hanson 'no squeak' (Bb) clarinet £439

Soprano clarinets

'Bb' (ring key) soprano (excluding budget instruments below £230 except Windcraft):

From here checking odds

Standard student: Available: Conn-Selmer 'Prelude' 710 £249; Leblanc '650' £299 or; TJJ 'Artemis' £299; Windcraft 'Wcl100' £216.

Premium student: Recommended: Yamaha 'Ycl255s' £510

Also available: Backun 'Alpha' n/p keys £469 (s/p keys £460) +Eb lever opt; Buffet 'Prodige' £455; Hanson 'RG' £549; Howarth 'Academy' £474; Jupiter '700sQ' £429; Leblanc '211s Debut' £468 or Leblanc '311 Spirito' £599; RZ 'Largo' (n/p keys) £385 or RZ 'Base' +Eb lever £495; Trevor James 'ser 8' £450; Uebel 'Etude' £650;

Advanced student: Available models: Backun 'Alpha+' (Eb lever opt) £987 or 'Beta' £1158 (Eb lever opt); Buffet 'E11' £865; Buffet 'E12F' £1095 (Eb lever opt); Hanson 'SE series' from £795; Jupiter '750sQ' £879 or '1100sQ' £1001 (Eb lever opt); Leblanc 'Bliss JB200 series' from £970 or Leblanc '411sII' £1200; Odyssey 'premiere OCL500' £1149; Trevor James 'Ser 8' £1399; Uebel 'Classic' £1342 or '888' £1399; Yamaha 'Ycl450S' £949 or 'Ycl450M' £959

Graduate: Available models: Arnolds 'ACL-1806' (+Eb lever) £1299; Backun 'Protégé' £1395 (Eb lever opt); Buffet 'E13' from £1415 (Eb lever opt); Hanson 'T5 series' from £1239; Leblanc '511s Serenade' II £1518 (Eb lever opt); P.Mauriat ERA-521 £1200; Selmer (Seles) 'Prologue II' £1495 (Eb lever opt); Uebel 'Advantage' £2086 (Eb lever opt); Yamaha '650' £1165

Professional: Available (entry level models): Backun 'Q2 series' (Eb lever opt); Buffet 'Gala' from £2499 or 'R13' from £2850 (Eb lever opt), or 'RC' from £3166 (Eb lever opt); Hanson 'T6 series' from £2079 or 'T6 no squeak' plateaux £2939; RZ 'Bohemia' model (+Eb lever) from £2885; Rossi 'Legacy' £5395; Selmer (Seles) 'Presence' £2695 (Eb lever opt?); Uebel 'Preference' (+Eb) £4313; Yamaha 'CX ser II' from £1898

'Bb' Plateaux soprano:

Ebonite: Hanson 'No squeak' £439

Wood: Hanson 'T5 no squeak' £1699

Popular Harmony & Bass clarinets

Avoid budget Harmony instruments (under £500)

'Eb' Sopranino

from £1200 (Amati ACL 361)

my recommendation entry level: Buffet 'E11' £1565

'C' soprano

my recommendation entry level: Buffet 'E1' £1560

also available: Amati '354S' £1035; John Packer 'JP124C' £269

'A' Soprano

It is best to buy same model as the Bb instrument (new or second-hand) this is simpler in respect of matching the barrels, mouthpieces, and cases, in addition to matching the feel and sound of the pair).

from £939: John Packer 'JP321A'

my recommendation entry level: Buffet E11 £1299

BASS (to E or Eb)

Student models: Backun 'Alpha' £2749; Buffet '1180-2-0' £4776; Conn-Selmer USA '1430LP' £3670; John Packer 'JP122' £1518; Jupiter 'JBC1000N' £1599 or 'JBC1000S' £1907; Yamaha '221sII' £2548

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