

A brief guide to available models of Oboe (May 2026)

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 or possibly to import.

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 Thumb-plate and (with the exception of the beginner instruments listed below) a Low Bb key.

Abbreviations: LH =left-hand; RH = right-hand; 1 = 1st finger; alt = alternate. TP = Thumb-plate system (only); Cons = Conservatoire system (only); Dual = Dual system; HDual = Conservatoire system fitted with Howarth Thumb-plate; Semi = semi-automatic Octave mechanism; Auto = Automatic Octave system (German system). NLP = no longer in production.

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: £1295 (Cons model available in two versions: 'Junior'
£1695 and 'Junior plus' £2095)

Also available:
Yamaha YOB241B (Dual – model to Low B! suitable to Grade 5) £1655

Possibly available second-hand or to import:
Oscar Adler '100' model (Cons) reduced keywork to Low C

Standard Student Instruments (to grade 6+ - Disc price range £1650 - £2150)

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' model (Dual - UK model to Low Bb!) £2157
Also available: Buffet 4131 'Prodige' model (TP) £1805; Howarth 'S10' model (TP) £1795;

Possibly available second-hand:
Schreiber '7130' model (TP) NLP.

Advanced Student Instruments (to grade 8+ - Disc price range £1700 - £3125)

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!) £2157
Also available: Buffet '4161' (Dual) £2250; Howarth 'S20' (TP) £2699 or Howarth 'S20C' (Cons) from £3395; Bulgheroni 449 (TP?Cons?) £2995;

Possibly available second-hand or to import:
Buffet '4052' model (Cons); Bulgheroni 'FB-091/TP' model (Dual); Fox/Renard '333 protégé' model (Cons?); Patricola model 'PT S1' model (TP); Schreiber '7150-2-0' model (TP) NLP

Graduate Instruments (Disc Price range £3400 - £6400)

Minimum key-work requirement - as above plus: 3rd Octave key, plateaux keys, long F, alt RH G#, Bell vent (and usually also Low B/C link or articulated low C#). Dual system and semi-automatic Octave mechanism are preferred by Teachers in UK. 'Bore finish options' indicates the model is available in wood, or part lined with synthetic material etc.

Suitable instruments available in UK (not all made of wood):

Bulgheroni (TP? Cons?) '896' model £4195
Cabart '74' model (Dual+Semi+3rd Oct) £4585
Cabart '74' model (Cons) £4285
Howarth 'S40C(T)' (Dual+semi+3rd Oct) £4295
-or Howarth 'S40C French' model (Cons+Semi+3rd Oct) £4295-4615 (bore finish options)
-or Howarth 'S40C German' model (Cons+Auto+3rd Oct) £5165-5400 (bore finish options)
Howarth 'S50C' model (Cons+Semi+3rd Octave + full Gillet system) from £6395
Howarth HL series (Cons+Semi+3rd Oct+full Gillet system) £6195-6395 (bore finish options)
Howarth HL series (Dual+Semi+3rd Oct+full Gillet system) £6195-6395 (bore finish options)
Lan Mei (Cons?+Semi+3rd Oct) £3395
Marigaux-Strasser 'standard 701' model (Cons? Semi+3rd Oct) £4995
Rigoutat-Riec 'standard' model (Cons) £4695
Yamaha 'YOB431B' model (Dual, wood) £3899
Yamaha 'YOB431M' model (Dual, wood + resin) £3720

Possibly available second-hand or to import:

Adler '5000/20TP' model (Dual) NLP
(Adler '4000' and '6000' series if also fitted with Thumb-plate) NLP
Bulgheroni 'FB-095', 'FB-101', or 'FB-105' models (with required keys fitted as listed above)
Buffet '4052' model (Cons+semi+3rd Oct)
Buffet '4057' model (Cons+Auto+3rd Oct)
Fosatti (Tiery) 'J40 CTP' model (Dual+Semi+3rd Oct)
Fosatti (Tiery) 'E40 CTP' model (Dual+Semi+3rd Oct)
Fox/Renard 'Artist 330' model (Cons?)
Fox/Renard 'Artist 335' model (Cons?) in wood
Howarth 'S45C(T)' model (Dual+Semi+3rd Oct + thick wall)
Marigaux-Strasser 'standard 801' model (Dual+Semi+3rd Oct)
Marigaux-Strasser 'standard 801' model (Cons)
Patricola PT SC1 (TP) model
Rigoutat-Riec 'standard' model (Dual)

Professional Instruments available in UK (Disc Prices from £7500)

Suitable instruments (entry level models):

Buffet 'Orfeo', 'Prestige', and 'Legende' models (Dual) from £9100, (Cons) from £8500; Howarth 'XL', 'XM', and 'LXV' models (Dual) from £10,295, (Cons) from £10,295; Loree 'Standard' model (Dual) from £7850, (Cons) from £7550; Marigaux '901(P)' model (HDual) from £10,470, (Cons) from £9895; Monnig '155 AM' model (HDual) from £10,500, (Cons) from £9810; Rigoutat 'Classic' or 'J' models (HDual) from £8932, (Cons) from £8632; Yamaha 'YOB831BsII' model (Dual) from £8598, 'YOB831L' (Cons) from £9830 model).

Cor Anglais available in UK (Disc Prices from £7500)

Entry level models:

Buffet 'BC4713' model (HDual) from £12,800, (Cons) from £12,500; Cabart 'x+3' model (Cons) from £7495; Fox '580' model (HDual) from £12,200, (Cons) from £11,700; Howarth 'S40C' model (Dual) from £8395; Loree 'i+3' model (Dual) from £10250, (Cons) from £10,100; Marigaux '930' model (HDual) from £12,375, (Cons) from £12,075; Monnig 'Diamant' model (HDual) from £11,800, (Cons) from £11,500; Rigoutat 'Standard' model (HDual) from £11,625, (Cons) from £11,325

Possibly available second-hand or to import:

Fosatti Tiery 'CA40' model (Dual) from £5163;

Howarth 'S30' model (Dual)

Patricola 'PT C1 F' model (TP) from £5645

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