

A brief guide to available models of Oboe (Sept 2023)

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 Low Bb key (except on the beginner instruments listed below).

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: £1120 (Cons model available in two versions: 'Junior' £1515 and 'Junior plus' £1970)

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 £1700 - £2200)

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) £1725
Also available: Buffet 4131 'Prodige' model (TP) £2191; 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) £1725
Also available: Buffet '4161' (Dual) £1925; Howarth 'S20' (TP) £2595 or Howarth 'S20C' (Cons) from £3125;

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 £3000 - £5700)

Minimum key-work requirement - as above plus: 3rd Octave key, plateaux keys, long F, alt RH G#, and Bell vent, (usually also Low B/C link or articulated low C#). Dual system and semi-automatic Octave mechanism are preferred by Teachers in UK.

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

Bulgheroni (Cons?) '896' model £4195
Bulgheroni (TP?) '896' model £4195
Cabart '74' model (Dual+Semi+3rd Oct) £4495
Cabart '74' model (Cons) £4285
Fosatti (Tiery) 'J40 CTP' model (Dual+Semi+3rd Oct) £3013
Fosatti (Tiery) 'E40 CTP' model (Dual+Semi+3rd Oct) £3910
Howarth 'S40C(T)' (Dual+semi+3rd Oct) £4265
 or Howarth 'S40C French' model (Cons+Semi+3rd Oct) from £3965
 or Howarth 'S40C German' model (Cons+Auto+3rd Oct) from £4915
Howarth 'S45C(T)' model (Dual+Semi+3rd Oct + thick wall) £6375
Howarth 'S50C' model (Cons+Semi+3rd Octave + full Gillet system) from £5675
Patricola PT SC1 (TP) model £Poa John Packer
Rigoutat-Riec 'standard' model (Cons) special order from Howarth
Marigaux-Strasser '701' model (TP?+Semi+3rd Oct) £4895
Yamaha 'YOB431B' model (Dual, wood) £3695
Yamaha 'YOB431M' model (Dual, wood + resin) £Poa Howarth

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)
Fox/Renard 'Artist 330' model (Cons?)
Fox/Renard 'Artist 335' model (Cons?) in wood
Rigoutat-Riec 'standard' model (Dual)
Marigaux-Strasser 'standard 801' model (Dual+Semi+3rd Oct)
Marigaux-Strasser 'standard 801' model (Cons)

Professional Instruments available in UK (Disc Prices from £7200)

Suitable instruments (entry level models):

Buffet 'Orfeo' models (Dual) from £8677 (Cons) from £8800 or 'Prestige' models (Dual) from £9100, (Cons) from £8800; Howarth 'S6 light-weight' model (TP) from £8275 or Howarth 'XL', 'XM', 'LXV' models (Dual) from £9875, (Cons) from £9575; Loree 'Standard' model (Dual) from £7515, (Cons) from £7215; Ludwig Frank '11 CD' model (Dual) from £9615, (Cons) from £9315; Marigaux '901(P)' model (HDual) from £10445, (Cons) from £9395; Monnig '155 AM TP' model (HDual) from £10575, (Cons) from £8950 ('155 AM-B' model); Rigoutat 'Classic' model (HDual) from £9115, (Cons) from £8815; Yamaha 'YOB831BsII' model (Dual) from £7816, (Cons) from £? ('YOB831L' model).

Cor Anglais available in UK (Disc Prices from £9700)

Entry level models:

Buffet 'BC4713' model (HDual) from £12,800, (Cons) from £12,500; Cabart 'x+3' model (Cons) from £6495; Fosatti Tiery 'CA40' model (Dual) from £5163; Fox '580' model (HDual) from £12,200, (Cons) from £11,700; Howarth 'S30' model (Dual) from £7915; Loree 'i+3' model (Dual) from £10,055, (Cons) from £9755; Marigaux '930' model (HDual) from £11,115, (Cons) from £10,815; Monnig 'Diamant' model (HDual) from £11,700, (Cons) from £11,400; Patricola 'PT C1 F' model (TP) from £5645; Rigoutat 'Standard' model (HDual) from £11,200, (Cons) from £10,900

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