

A brief guide to available models of Saxophones (Nov 2024)

Saxophone 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 may be 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.

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.

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 £97.

Standard Student: Available models: Chateau 'Valencay' from £1290; Hanson 'series V' from £1130; Howarth 'Chiltern' S900 from £1150; Jupiter '1000Q' from £1289; Leblanc '511D' from £1299; Trevor James 'The Horn' from £849; Vito from £899; Windcraft 'WSS-200' from £1089.

Premium Student: Available Models: Antigua 'Pro-One' from £1735; Conn-Selmer 'Premiere' (to graduate) from £1599 (PS380); Hanson 'series VIII' from £1730; Jupiter '1100Q' from £2150; Leblanc '711DL' from £1572; P.Mauriat 'Le Bravo' from £1975; System 54 from £1985; Trevor James 'Evo' from £1325; Yamaha 'YSS475 sII' from £1977.

Professionals favour: Yanagisawa from £2485 'S901' or new model 'SW01' from £2600

(Entry models) Also available: Canonball from £2961 (SVR-L); Eastman from £2599 (52nd street); Hanson from £2310 (LX); Keilwerth from £5685 (SX90/1300-8DL); P.Mauriat from £2580 (system 76); Rampone & Cazzani from £3149 (R1); Selmer [France] from £4775 (SA80 sII Jubilee); Sequoia from £2670 (K91); Theo Wanne from £2799 (Mantra); Woodstone from £4617 (HGGL); Yamaha from £3934 (YSS82Z).

Alto

Excluding budget instruments below £500 (new)

(Children's models): Roy Benson 'child's sax' AS201 £635; Trevor James 'Alpha' £545; Conn '655' (adapted keys and neck) £550.

Standard student: Recommended: Jupiter '500Q' series £735
or Yamaha 'YAS280' £885

Also available: (Trevor James) 'Artemis A1' from £559; Buffet '100 series' from £549 or 'Prodige' £995; Chateau 'Valencay' from £673; Conn 'AS650' from £629; Conn-Selmer 'DS180-Avant' from £800 or 'the better sax' from £825; Earlham 'Series II' from £799 or '309' from £827; Eastman 'EAS253' from £785; Elkhart 'SXAD' from £699; Festivo 'Pro' from £899; Jean Paul USA 'AS400' from £679; Odyssey 'debut' from £699; Trevor James 'The Horn' from £596 or 'Horn Classic II' from £659; Windcraft 'WAS-150' from £495.

Premium student: Recommended: Jupiter '700' series £819
(to Graduate) or Trevor James 'SR' £1303 or 'Evo' 1299

Also available: Arnold 'AAS300 Terra' from £1299; Buffet '(8)400 series' from £1025; Conn-Selmer 'DAS200-Avant' from £1225 or 'Premiere' from £1699; Chateau 'Chambord' from £1365 or 'Versailles' from £1810; Hanson 'Series V' from £1170 or 'Series VIII' from £1500; Howarth 'Chiltern A900B' from £1250; Jean-Paul USA '860' from £2030; Jupiter '1100' from £1349; Keilwerth 'ST90' from £1037; Leblanc '511' from £1499 or '711' from £2043; P.Mauriat 'SA-185' from £1589 or 'Le Bravo' from £1699; Theo Wayne 'Shakti' from £1599; Windcraft 'WAS-200' from £999; Yamaha 'YAS480' from £1745.

Professionals favour: Recommended: Yamaha from £2395 (YAS62 series IV)
or Yanigisawa from £2279 (AW01)

(Entry models) Also available: Atlantic London from £2799 (The Duke); Buffet from £3299 (Senzo); Canonball from £2737 (A4); Eastman from £2871 (652RL); Hanson from £2310 (LX); JL Woodwind from £3550 (Artist NY); Keilwerth from £3500 (SX90R); P. Mauriat from £2399 (Grand Dreams) or from £2750 (system 76); Rampone & Cazzani from £2399 (Performer); Selmer [France] from £2800 (Seles Axos); Sequoia from £4759 (RB2 Booster); System 54 from £2499 (Powerbell); Theo Wayne from £2799 (Narayan); Trevor James from £2235 (SC-RAW); Woodstone from £2999 (New Vintage).

Tenor

Excluding budget instruments below £580 (new)

Standard student: Recommended: Trevor James 'Horn Classic II' £800
or Jupiter '500Q' £899

Also available: Buffet '100' from £1039; Chateau 'Cherverny' from £585; Conn 'TS650' from £799 or 'the better sax' from £1299; Eastman 'ETS223' from £995; Elkhart 'TS100' from £673 or 'SXTD' from £999; Festivo from £650; Jean Paul USA 'TS400' from £889; Sakkusu Deluxe £799; Trevor James/Kurioshi 'Vivace' from £599; Windcraft 'WTS 100' from £719.

Premium student: Recommended: Yamaha 'YTS280' £1475
(to Graduate) or Trevor James 'Evo' £1250 or 'Horn 88' £1275 or 'SR' £1599
or Jupiter '700Q' £1199

Also available: Buffet '(8)400' from £1235; Chateau 'Chambord' from £1292 or 'Versailles' from £2308; Eastman 'ETS223' from £1099; Hanson 'Series V' from £1280 or 'Series VIII' from £1850; Howarth 'Chiltern T900' from £1295; Jupiter '1100' from £1799; Leblanc '511' from £1799 or '711' from £2358; P.Mauriat 'ST180' from £1599 or 'Le Bravo' from £2299; Ripamonti 'V-Jazz custom VI' from £2200; Selmer [USA] 'La Vie' from £1699 or 'Liberty' from £1740; Sequoia 'RB1' from £2735; Windcraft 'WTS 200' from £1249; Yamaha 'YTS480' £2199.

Professionals favour: Yanagisawa 'TW01' £2995

(Entry Models) Also available: Atlantic London from £3299 (The Duke); Canonball from £3009 (T4); Eastman from £3213 (52nd street); Hanson from £2400 (LX); JL Woodwind from £3550 (Artist NY); Keilworth from £3500 (SX90R/3400-8-0); P.Mauriat from £3450 (66R) or from £3850 (system 76); Rampone & Cazzani from £2849 (Performer); Retro-Revival from £3495 (Tru-Six); Selmer [France] from £3220/3490 (Seles Axos); System 54 from £2655 (Core Power Bell); Trevor James from £2995 (SC-RAW); Wood-Stone from £5341 (Vintage); Yamaha from £3100 (YTS62).

Baritone

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

Student: Recommended: Jupiter 1000 series £2999

Also available: Buffet '(8)400 series' from £3500; Chateau 'Chenonceau' from £3645; Conn 'BS650' from £2700; Eastman 'EBS456' from £3195; Elkhart 'SXB' from £2855; Festivo from £2995; Hanson 'Series VIII' from £4200; Howarth 'Chiltern B8810' from £3299; Sakkuso from £1399; Trevor James 'Horn Classic II' from £2559; Yamaha 'YBS480' from £5974.

Professionals favour: Yanigisawa BW01 from £5595

(Entry Models) Also available: Conn-Selmer from £4590 (Premiere models); Eastman from £5999 (52nd street); Hanson from £5355/5355 (LX); Keilwerth from £8399 (SX90); Leblanc '711' from £5499; P.Mauriat from £5300 (Le Bravo); Selmer [France] from £9390 (SA80 sII-Jubilee); Trevor James from £4499 (SR-SR); Yamaha from £7730 (YBS-62).

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