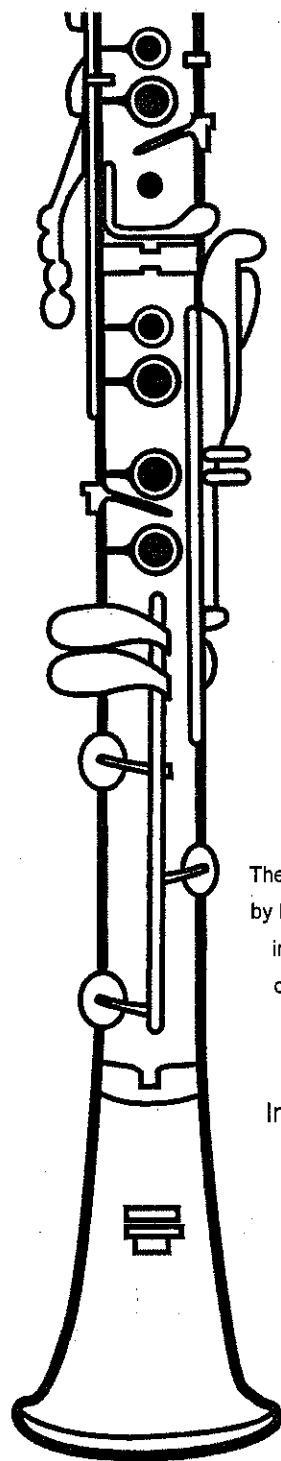




What to look for in a student clarinet

- Always specify a Bb clarinet.
- Wooden clarinets are preferable, however a good quality plastic clarinet is perfectly adequate for students who are just starting out.
- When purchasing a second-hand clarinet, check the mouthpiece as this may need replacing. Always check there are no chips, splits or teeth indentations in the mouthpiece.
- Be advised by your teacher regarding reputable brands of mouthpieces. The mouthpiece does not have to be the same brand as the clarinet.
- When purchasing a second-hand instrument, check for bent keywork and worn pads and corks.
- A wooden clarinet should be checked thoroughly for cracks in all sections of the instrument.

Prices can vary widely, depending on the brand and model. Based on our experience we have found the following brands to be reputable; Yamaha, Vito, Buffet, LeBlanc and Armstrong. However, this is not an exhaustive list and you may find other brands to be of a similar quality.



The information in this guide has been prepared by Instrumental Music School Services to assist in purchasing a musical instrument for your child. No recommendations are made for a particular supplier or brand of instrument.

Instrumental Music School Services

150 Guildford Road

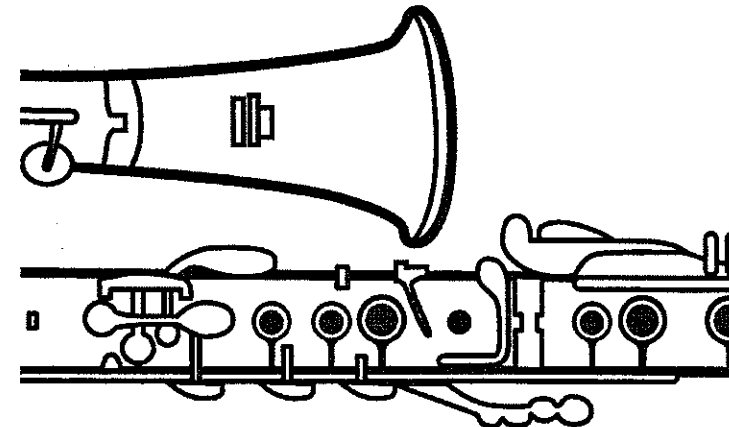
Maylands WA 6051

T: 9272 7800

F: 9272 7877

W: www.sim.linet.net.au

Purchasing a musical instrument A guide for first time buyers



Clarinet

Congratulations on your child's interest in learning to play a musical instrument!
This information has been developed to assist you make the right decisions when purchasing an instrument.

When looking to purchase an instrument for your child, there are a number of options to consider. You can:

- purchase a new instrument outright;
- purchase a second-hand instrument; or
- investigate purchase plans or rental programs.

Your teacher will be happy to assist you with specific advice – don't hesitate to ask.

Purchasing a new instrument

- There is a range of brands available on the market, with some retailers acting as agents for specific brands. Keep in mind that you can always upgrade instruments when your child is more advanced and that a student model is ideal for starting out.
- The best place to start is by checking out either the Internet or music shops listed in the Yellow Pages. It is important to shop around and compare brands, models and prices. Once you have found a suitable instrument, compare prices on that brand and model to make sure you have the most competitive price.
- Ask for the student price.
- Look for shops that offer a trial period – this will allow your child to play the instrument to make sure it is suited to him/her. If not, it can be returned or exchanged as part of this service.
- Enquire about the warranty and clarify if service arrangements can be made for the maintenance and repair of your new instrument.
- Instruments hold value well if they have been carefully looked after and serviced when necessary.

Purchasing a second-hand instrument

- Check that the instrument has been serviced regularly before you purchase it and whether it is under warranty. This will save you from constant repairs and adjustments.
- The best places to find second-hand instruments are newspapers and music stores. Alternatively you could check with your local school to see if any older students are trading up to a more advanced instrument.
- Play the instruments first to see how it feels and sounds.
- Stick to a well known brand when buying a second-hand instrument.
- The rule of thumb when purchasing a second-hand instrument is that it should cost between one-third and one-half of the retail price of a new instrument, depending on age and condition.
- Instruments that are in poor condition are likely to cost you more in the long run. Check out shops that offer advisory services which will look at the condition of the instrument for you and advise of any repairs that may need to be done.
- Make sure you have access to a reputable and reliable repair service for your instrument.
- When using internet sites to purchase an instrument, parents should be aware that the instrument may be of inferior quality. The lack of warranty protection is also an important consideration when purchasing online.

Purchase plans or rental programs

- Some music retailers will provide you with a purchase plan to allow you to pay for an instrument over a period of time.
- It is possible to rent an instrument, particularly if it is only required over an interim period.
- Make a few telephone calls to get the best comparison of conditions and costs of either purchase plans or rental programs.

Once you have your instrument

Once you have a musical instrument for your child it is recommended you organise instrument insurance and make sure your child knows how to care for their instrument. It is also essential you record the instrument's serial number.

During music class, the teacher will advise students what they need to do to keep their instrument in top condition and will let parents know if servicing or maintenance is required. If you have any queries, please contact your child's teacher.

