

# Band Instruments – Reliable Brands to Buy

(2020 update... list created by Bradley Mariska and crowdsourced by BDG)

Just like any product, there are good musical instruments and others that might not be worth the investment. If you are in the market for a new or used instrument, please consult this list (and look, you have LOTS of options!). Please email a band director if you find an instrument that is not on this list, as there may be other good instruments out there. With new instruments, you usually get what you pay for. With used instruments, you can sometimes find a name brand instrument as cheap as the ‘generic’ equivalent. But unlike the grocery store, ‘generic’ musical instruments very seldom measure up to the name brand equivalent. This is for many reasons:

- 1) Instruments made by companies listed below have a history of producing quality instruments. Generally speaking, they are designed and built by expert craftsmen.
- 2) Instruments from these companies use quality materials. The instruments are more reliable, have a longer lifespan, and parts are easily repaired and replaced if a problem develops.
- 3) Because they are crafted by experts and designed with quality materials, students can produce a quality sound more easily.
- 4) Repair technicians keep parts in stock for these instruments. These companies use standardized parts and materials that a repair technician can fix. Low-quality instruments use parts that aren’t compatible - don’t buy an instrument that cannot be repaired! *It’s a waste of money.*
- 5) Just because an instrument is shiny, it doesn’t mean it will work well. Also, just because an instrument is cheap, it doesn’t necessarily mean you’re “getting a deal.” You’re better off saving your money and investing in a better instrument down the road or talking to a director to find a quality used instrument.
- 6) Even from the brands listed below, some models are better than others ... or sometimes a vintage (used) instrument is actually better than the new ones. So...
- 7) **ALWAYS CONTACT A DIRECTOR BEFORE BUYING – WE’RE HAPPY TO HELP, NO MATTER WHAT YOUR BUDGET!**

<b>Flute</b>	<b>Oboe</b>	<b>Clarinet</b>	<b>Saxophone</b>	<b>Trumpet</b>	<b>F Horn</b>	<b>Trombone</b>	<b>Euphonium/Tuba</b>	<b>Guitar/Elec. Bass</b>	<b>Keyboard Perc.</b>
Accent	A Laubin	Accent	Accent	Accent	Accent	Accent	Accent	Archer	Adams
Altus	Buffet	Anthem	Andreas Eastman	Adams	Alexander	Anthem	Adams	Epiphone	Bergerault
Anthem	Bulgheroni	Artley	Anthem	Anthem	Anthem	Antoine Courtois	B & S	ESP	Coe
Armstrong	Cabart	Backun	Antigua Winds	Atkinson	Bach	B & S	Bach	Fender	Malletech
Artley	Fox	Buffet	Buescher	B & S	Brasswind	BAC	Besson	Gibson	Majestic
Azumi	Fossati	Bundy	Buffet	BAC	Cerveny	Bach	Cerveny	Ibanez	Marimba One
Brio	Howarth	Cannonball	Bundy	Bach	Conn	Benge	Conn	Jackson	Musser
Burkart	Jupiter	Giardinelli	Cannonball	Benge	Dieter Otto	Besson	Eastman	Martin	Yamaha
Bundy	Marigaux	Jupiter	Chateau	Blessing	Eastman	Bundy	Hirsbrunner	PDP	
Cannonball	MCW	Leblanc/Bliss	Conn	Bundy	E. Schmidt	Conn	Holton	Schechter	<b>Concert Snare</b>
Di Zhao	Loree	Martin Freres	Jupiter	Cannonball	Finke	Eastman	John Packer	Taylor	Black Swamp
Gemeinhardt	Patricola	Noblet	Keilwerth	Conn	Hans Hoyer	Edwards	Jupiter	Yamaha	Grover
Haynes	Renard	Normandy	Kessler	Dynasty	Holton	Emerson	Kanstul		Ludwig
Emerson	Selmer	Patricola	King	Eastman	Jupiter	Fides	King	<b>Aux. Perc.</b>	Majestic
Jupiter	Yamaha	Ridenour	Olds	Fides	Kanstul	Getzen	Mack Brass	Alan Abel	Pearl
Miyazawa		Rossi	Phil Barone	Getzen	King	Holton	Meinl Weston	Black Swamp	Yamaha
Muramatsu	<b>Bassoon</b>	Selmer	P. Mauriat	Holton	Lawson	John Packer	Miraphone/Mirafone	Grover	
Pearl	Adler	Vito	Sax Dakota	John Packer	Mack Brass	Jupiter	Olds	LP	<b>Drumsets</b>
Powell	Amati	Yamaha	Selmer	Jupiter	Paxman	Kanstul	Perantucci	Ron Vaughn	Adams
Quantz	Fox		TM	Kanstul	Reynolds	King	Rudolph Meinl	Treeworks	DW
Resona	Kohlert		Trevor James	King	Monette	Mack Brass	St. Petersburg		Gretsch
Sankyo	Moennig		Vito	Monette	Yamaha	Olds	TubaExchange		Ludwig
Sonare	Moosmann		Yamaha	Olds		Rath	Wessex		Mapex
Trevor James	Olds		Yanagisawa	Reynolds		Reynolds	Willson		PDP (Pacific)
Yamaha	Puchner			Schilke		Schilke	XO		Pearl
Vito	Renard			Shires		Shires	Yamaha		Premier
	Schreiber			Sonare		XO			Slingerland
	Walter			Stomvi		Yamaha			Sonor
	Wolf			XO					Tama
	Yamaha			Yamaha					Yamaha