

## Clarinet Equipment

In general better equipment produces a better sound more easily. “Beginner” products are generally the most difficult to play well while “Professional” products are the easiest and sound the best. When choosing clarinet equipment there are many different options for all types of budgets. Outlined below are a number of different products that work well at different price points. All price listings are approximations.

### Mouthpieces

Yamaha 4C - \$31

The Vandoren mouthpieces listed below are sorted from more closed-faced at the top to more open-faced at the bottom. All models are approximately \$84 on [weinermusic.com](http://weinermusic.com). Vandoren’s “13 series” is an American tuning with A=440 and the non 13 series is European with A=441. The “Profile 88” facing has a narrower point and is better for students whose front teeth are closer together. The “traditional” facing has a wider point and will be more comfortable for students whose front teeth are more offset.

M13 Lyre

M15

5RV

B45

B40

### Ligatures

Rovner Light - \$20

Rovner Versa X- \$48

Generally better for more open mouthpieces

Rovner Versa- \$48

Generally better for more closed mouthpieces

### Metronomes

Qwik Time QT3- \$18

This metronome provides a basic beat with a tone that is loud enough to hear while playing clarinet. It does not subdivide and will be useful to beginning students but students will need a metronome that subdivides when they begin to play more advanced music.

DB30-\$40

This metronome subdivides and has tuning features. This is best for students playing intermediate to advanced music.

### Plastic/Resin Clarinet (Bb)

YCL 255- I recommend buying these used on Ebay for about \$300

### Wood Clarinets (Bb)

Note: Wood clarinets should always be play tested and taken on a “trial” period before purchasing. DO NOT BUY ON AMAZON

Note: When choosing a high end instrument, specific variations in sound or feel should appeal to the student.

YCL 650- \$1,980

Buffet E12-\$2058.10

YCL CSVR- \$3,186

Buffet R13- \$3,619

Buffet Festival- \$4,800+

Buffet Prestige- \$6,718

### Used High End Clarinets

Used high end Buffet (Festival, Vintage, Prestige etc.) clarinets can be found at RDG Woodwinds in Los Angeles. Sometimes these instruments can be better than an average Buffet R13. Occasionally I also hear about clarinetists selling off moderately to heavily used instruments.

Something to consider when buying a used wood clarinet is that clarinets get worse with age because the wood can gradually change shape due to temperature and moisture. A prestige line Buffet that has been moderately to heavily played can be compared to a luxury car with 150,000+ miles on it.