

A Note Regarding Instrument Quality.....

As you go out and get your student their instrument (or order online) I wanted to share some information with you regarding instrument quality, reliability and service ability. Brands other than those approved by the director should be avoided, as the quality and reliability may be questionable. Generally, discount and warehouse club stores' instruments are not of good quality and can present numerous problems in various areas. In addition, most music stores refuse to repair these instruments.

Also, used instruments, particularly woodwinds, may need to be taken to a shop for repair and adjustments. Please keep this in mind and plan ahead to have these instruments ready for the first day of band class with instruments.

Disclaimer Alert: I do not endorse any particular brand; the brands listed below are simply suggestions based on my experience.

What to look for when buying an instrument:

1. Does the manufacturer offer a 3-5 year warranty?
2. Is the store from which you purchased able to repair and supply parts?
3. Does the store you are purchasing from have a repair contract/agreement?
4. Does the store you are purchasing from offer loaner instruments while yours is being repaired.
4. How well does the instrument play and how well is it made?
5. Can parts be easily obtained?

Suggested Brands (based on my experience):

Flute: Armstrong, Artley, Bundy, Emerson, Gemeinhardt, Jupiter, Selmer, Yamaha

Oboe: Fox, Loree', Yamaha, Bundy, Selmer

Bassoon: Fox, Selmer, LeBlanc, Schriber

Clarinet: Armstrong, Artley, Buffet, Bundy, Conn, Jupiter, Selmer, Vito/LeBlanc, Yamaha

Saxophone: Blessing, Bundy, Conn, Jupiter, Keilwerth, Jupiter, Selmer, Vito/LeBlanc, Yamaha, Yanagisawa

French Horn (Double Horn): Conn, Holton, Yamaha, Holton

Trumpet: Bach, Besson, Blessing, Bundy, Conn, Holton, Jupiter, King, Yamaha

Trombone: Bach, Besson, Bundy, Conn, Jupiter, King, Selmer, Yamaha

Baritone / Tuba: Bach, Besson, King, Yamaha

Percussion: Ludwig, Pearl, VicFirth, Yamaha

**PLEASE DO NOT ATTEMPT TO ASSEMBLE YOUR INSTRUMENT UNTIL YOU HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED IN CLASS.
IMPROPER ASSEMBLY OF MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS MAY RESULT IN DAMAGE.**