

TRUSTED BRANDS

The brands below have established history in instrument production, are widely recognized as “teacher approved”, and most importantly....there is part support if something were to break and/or need replacement.

If you don't see a brand on this list or are unsure, call your local repair shop and ask. There are lots of amazing vintage and professional brands not listed, as they might not be appropriate for the beginning player.

WOODWIND

- Armstrong
- Artley
- Buffet (clarinet)
- Bundy (pre-2010)
- Cannonball
- Conn (sax)
- Gemeinhardt (flute)
- Jupiter
- King (sax)
- LeBlanc
- Noblet (clarinet)
- Normandy (clarinet)
- P. Mauriat
- Selmer
- Vito
- Yamaha

BRASS

- Bach
- Besson
- Bundy (pre-2010)
- Conn
- Eastman
- Getzen
- Holton
- King
- Jupiter
- Miraphone
- Olds
- Packer
- Schilke
- Selmer
- Willson
- Yamaha

WHY BUY USED?

- ♪ More Affordable - Price of a used instrument, including initial repair costs, can save you 50% or more over buying new.
- ♪ Retains Value - Resale value on used remains fairly constant, so if you buy a quality used instrument, you are likely to recoup most of your money back when selling.
- ♪ Variety – More options are available in ergonomics, finishes, instrument materials, additional features, etc.



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GUIDE TO BUYING A USED BAND INSTRUMENT

*Essential Items To Look For
When Inspecting and Shopping
For A Used Instrument*



BRASS

Used brass instruments should be professionally cleaned after purchase.

WHEN INSPECTING, DO THE FOLLOWING:

- Push and Pull Everything
 - Push all the valves/rotors down and make sure they rebound back up.
 - Pull all the slides. Typically 4-6 slides.
 - Press all the water keys/spit valves and make sure the springs work.
- Play/Blow Air Through The Instrument.
 - If something stuck in the horn, airflow will be restricted.
 - If the valves are in the wrong position, airflow will be restricted.
 - If you can hear or feel air escaping other than the bell, there is a leak.
- Red Rot
 - Check the horn for pink spots, called "Red Rot". A little is not of concern, but a lot indicates replacement soon.
- Dents
 - Dents should be repaired because it will affect airflow if near the leadpipe or back crooks and/or integrity of the horn if near the bell section.
 - Most bell dents are easily fixed.
- Finish
 - Silver plated horns may be tarnished, and easily polished during a cleaning.
 - Lacquer horns may be worn /flaking off. This can not be easily repaired. But if you are not too picky about cosmetics, an "ugly" horn can save you even more money.

ALL INSTRUMENTS

VIDEOS ABOUT BUYING AN INSTRUMENT:

WWW.ROCKYMOUNTAINMUSICREPAIR.COM/BUYING-GUIDE

This guide is meant to give you a rudimentary list of items to look for when buying a used band instrument, it is in no way comprehensive.

If in doubt, or if you have any questions....ALWAYS call your trusted repair shop to ask their opinion/advice BEFORE buying an instrument.

- 🎵 Make sure all the parts are accounted for. Take your time & check to see if something is missing. Some brands can be hard to get parts for.
- 🎵 Cracks. While cracks are never normal, they can be repaired, but can be costly.
- 🎵 Rarely, if ever, will you buy a used instrument that doesn't require any repair. Recommend bringing it to a repair shop to get a full estimate.
- 🎵 Extreme damage should be approached cautiously and in conjunction with a repair shop.

BUYING TIP

Ask your preferred repair shop if you can have the seller meet you there. A repair tech can look it over and give an estimate for any repairs that may be needed, and you can use that estimate to negotiate price.

WOODWIND

Used woodwind instruments should be professionally repaired after purchase. Some or all of the pads & corks will likely need to be replaced.

WHEN INSPECTING, DO THE FOLLOWING:

- Push and Touch Everything
 - Push all the keys. See if they rebound fast, slow or don't come back up at all.
 - Clicking sound? When you press the keys, does it sound loud? If so, key corks will need replacing.
- Pads
 - Many pads will be hard to see, but the ones you can see will be enough to give you a good idea of their condition.
 - If you see discoloration, torn or frayed edges or a thin bladder drooping, those pads will need to be replaced.
 - Sax pads are made of leather and will get hard & brittle when they are bad.
 - Holes in the pads or missing chunks in the pads indicates a pad-bug infestation and all the pads will need to be replaced.
- Corks
 - Put the horn together and make sure every section fits snugly. Tenon corks (that fit between each section) may need replacing.
 - Clarinets & Saxophones have neck and mouthpiece corks, inspect those for tears.
- Play/Blow Air Through The Instrument
 - If possible, bring the player along with a mouthpiece and reed to test the instrument.
 - If some of the notes don't play, some/all the pads will need replacing.