



# PURCHASING OBOES

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## Existing Instruments- Taking Inventory

- Student oboes go out of adjustment with light jostling and weather changes. Play the oboe when your student is having difficulties. Often only small adjustments are needed.
- Pay a local oboist to assess your instruments, make necessary adjustments, and create a suggested repair list. This can save time and maximize your repair budget.
- Considering which oboes to keep? Avoid old wooden oboes and those missing keywork on the bell. Keep instruments that have extra keys for the LH pinky (low Bb, alternate Eb, and the valuable "alternate F key" that gives easy technique and good tone in flat keys).

## Buying New Oboes

- Wood vs. Plastic: wooden oboes can crack and always require the player to warm the top joint (in the hands or armpit) before playing and use of a humidifier in cold and dry weather.
- When wooden oboes aren't played for a few weeks, they require a breaking-in period. Plastic instruments are unchanging, and need less maintenance overall.
- Keywork: "full conservatory" provides alternate keys (left F and low Bb especially) that allow even tone and technique in all key areas.
- Student models (new or used) from Yamaha, Fox, and Howarth and used Lorees (\$4-6K) are strong choices. Try several individual instruments before selecting one and do not order from a catalog- no two instruments are alike.
- Professional models include Howarth, Loree, and Marigaux (\$8-11K).

## Oboe Suppliers

### Hannah's Oboes

- <https://www.hannahsoboes.com/>
- Owned by an oboist (Arizona), huge selection of instruments.
- Used and new oboes and English horns.
- Can send 4-5 instruments for trial.
- Financing available.

### Midwest Musical Imports

- <https://www.mmimports.com>
- Knowledgeable oboists on-site (Minneapolis) will help you select instruments.
- Double reed distributor (also sells reeds, reed-making materials, music, etc.).

### Mark Chudnow Woodwinds

- <https://www.mcwoeboe.com>
- Top oboe repairperson, based in Napa, CA.
- Makes and sells "The MCW Oboe".
- Used and new oboes in good repair.