

# Instrument Purchase Checklist

**You're making an investment, make the right one.**

Here are some tips to help you identify quality instruments to help you make the best investment.

## Bad investments:

- ✗ You're buying an instrument from the same place you order your underwear.
- ✗ The instrument you're purchasing comes with white gloves.  
You're instrument can be shipped with free two day (or one day) shipping if you're an "elite" member of the website you're purchasing from.
- ✗ The instrument boasts a 1-year manufacturers warranty (the good investments come with 5 years minimum).
- ✗ The instrument your are purchasing is available in every color of the rainbow.
- ✗ The brand name of your instrument sounds like its the name of a magician.
- ✗ The instrument is "recommended" or is the "Top Rated" choice on the website that also sells workout equipment, garden supplies, or diapers.

There is nothing more frustrating to a student than an instrument they cannot properly manipulate to make the sound or notes work. For students to feel success we need to eliminate and possible frustrations that we can as they get started on their journey. By having your student participate in band, you are already setting them up for success, but lets try to give them the very best start we can by giving them the proper tools to make music happen!

## Good Investments:

- ✓ The instrument you are purchasing can be **rented** as a beginner instrument from a **reputable** music instrument dealer/store.
- ✓ Your student can actually touch the instrument and try it out before you **buy/rent**.
- ✓ The instrument brand is **well known** and has been around for 20-50 years.
- ✓ Your students band director has given you an "approval" before you purchase.
- ✓ It hurts a little bit, thinking about how much this instrument costs if you were to purchase it outright (that's why we recommend renting to start and you get what you pay for).

## Key Take-aways:

- 1 When in doubt, check with your student's teacher or band director before purchasing in instrument. They will guide you to the best investment.
- 2 If money is a factor in your students ability to participate in band, talk with their teacher about available options to assist students in financial need.  
Most instrument dealers that offer rentals will offer a **rent-to-buy** option that allows you to apply your payments to purchasing the instrument later. Be sure you check the details of your rental contract before signing on the dotted line.
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