

FIRST TIME PIANO BUYER?

It can be overwhelming!



Equip your child (or yourself) with the best instrument you can afford.

tip 1

tip 2

tip 3

Buying a nice digital piano with weighted keys is an excellent starting point, but it will only last you for about 3-4 years, or until you or your child reaches an intermediate level. Same applies to a good upright piano.

One cannot improve past the ability of their keyboard or piano, so know that you have an investment on your hands and the more improvement you see with your child, the better instrument you will need in order for him/her to continue to flourish musically.

Instrument Guidelines

Incorrect seat height will cause technical issues

Keyboard

- 88, full sized keys
- Weighted keys
- Hammer action
- Must have a pedal!
- Must have a proper bench
- Please do not purchase a new keyboard under the \$500-600 price point. You will simply be buying a toy. Plan to spend around \$1,000. The professional grade instruments start in the this range unless there is a fantastic sale going on.
- Brands that are reputable and mainstream include Casio, Yamaha, and Roland.
- Local music stores and/or Amazon are great resources.
- You do not want a "stage piano" because this means it's portable. For a piano, you will want a console case/stand.

Note: "Touch Sensitive" is not the same!

Keyboard Recommendations

Best: Roland F-140R Digital Piano

Great: Yamaha YDP103R Arius

Great: Yamaha Arius YDP162B

*Always opt for the console stand over a portable stand

Acoustic

- A good quality upright piano will last about as long as a keyboard; 3-4 years.
- We recommend buying grand pianos of 5'5 ft or larger to get the best sound. If you don't have space, stick with the nicest upright or keyboard you can afford.
- Ask about serial numbers. Look for the North America market serial numbers (Google)
- If buying used, you do not want a piano that has water damage regardless of what the salesperson says.
- If buying used, try to get a piano with the original soundboard, but make sure it has NO cracks in it.
- Go with a name you trust.
- Skip the "player unit" because it does change the action and sound.

New Pianos

- If you are looking at a new piano, we recommend speaking with local piano dealers. If in Dallas, we have friendships with Steinway Hall, Plano and Collora Piano. There is also a new Kawai dealer that we highly recommend checking out as well.
- A good new piano will run you anywhere from approximately \$10,000 and beyond. We do not recommend buying an inexpensive piano, simply because of price.
- Pianos being made right now do not appreciate in value. Our intention is for you to get your money's worth if/when you decide to sell your instrument.

Used Pianos

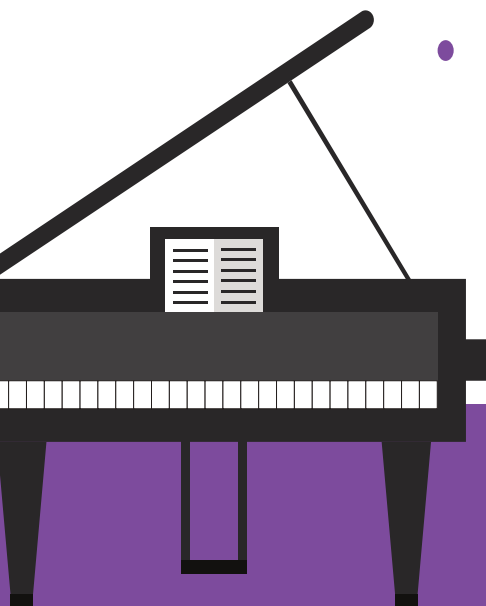
We love used pianos, and in fact help sell great instruments at www.NewtoMePianos.com

There are some great deals on Craigslist if you follow these guidelines:

- if possible, buy from the owner or trusted third party.
- For a really good used grand piano, plan to spend a minimum of \$10,000.
- Our intention is for you to get your money's worth if/when you decide to sell your instrument and to not overpay, but invest in a great instrument.

Maintenance

- Plan on tuning once per year, maybe twice. This will cost approximately \$160, give or take.
- Your hammers will likely need to be replaced every 10 years or so and will cost approximately \$6,000-\$8,000
- You will need to have a humidifier approximately 20 feet from the acoustic instrument when the heat is on and the humidity in your home is below 40%
- In the summer, you may need to run a dehumidifier (depending on your climate) when the humidity in your home is above 50%



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This information is meant only as a helpful guideline and is to the best of our knowledge, a fair representation of what is necessary for a successful piano journey.