

Buying a Recorder

If you choose to buy your child his/her own instrument, please keep the following information in mind:

1. Recorders are available in five different ranges. You will want a **soprano** recorder.
2. Recorders are made by several companies. **Angel, Aulos, Cambridge, Hohner, and Yamaha** are all good brands. Be careful with the most inexpensive model made by Cambridge. We have previously experienced some cracks in the head joint.
3. Recorders are available with all finger holes as single holes and with a combination of single and double holes. You will want a **combination of single and double holes**. This is called **English or Baroque fingering**.
4. Recorders are made from **wood** and **plastic**. Wooden recorders have a beautiful tone, but they are more fragile. Wooden bodies **must** be swabbed out **every** time they are used (Be certain that you purchase a swab for the instrument if one doesn't come with it.) and are much more temperature sensitive. Plastic bodies are more moisture-resistant and adjust to changes in temperature more readily. The tone of plastic recorders has vastly improved in recent years.
5. Plastic recorders are most typically available in earth-tone colors of cream, tan, brown, and black. The color of wooden recorders is determined by the natural color of the wood—pear, maple, cherry, and the like. Color is not an issue in and of itself. However, there are some clear plastic recorders made by Yamaha and a couple of other companies which come in rainbow colors of pink, yellow, green, orange, blue, purple, and the like. These **transparent recorders**—although beautiful to the eye—are **not recommended**. Because of the type of plastic from which they are made, they produce a more shrill sound and are more easily overblown; this usually causes greater frustration for beginning students because they must maintain more breath control.
6. Soprano recorders are made in one-, two-, and three-piece models. **First choice** is a **two-piece** model; **second choice** is a **three-piece** model.
7. Some recorders come with a **case**; others do not. If you buy a recorder without a case, you will need to provide one of some sort to protect the instrument. [See "Need a Recorder Case?"]

Local brick and mortar store that sells recorders:

Music & Arts, 426 Crossroads Blvd., Cary, NC 27518, 919-854-0024 (between Marshall's and Petco)

*Call ahead and ask them to hold a **soprano recorder** for you to pick up. If they are running low in supply, it may take a day or two for more to be available. This will save you a trip.*

Online vendor that sells recorders:

Amazon.com

If you are an Amazon Prime customer and wish to purchase through them, your better options are to *order either the "**Yamaha YRS-23Y Soprano Recorder, Natural**" (Style: YRS-23) or the "**Aulos A903E Soprano 3-Piece Student Recorder with Vinyl Case and Fingering Chart**".*

NOTE: As much as we *love* to save a dollar or two ourselves, we **do not advocate** shopping for a recorder at Dollar Tree, Dollar General Store, Wal-Mart, Target, BJ's, and the like. Instruments purchased at stores such as these **often are not constructed according to standard pitch** and will cause us **problems** when we are performing with another standard-pitched instrument or all performing together.