

Tips For Buying A Keyboard

Buying instruments can be overwhelming. It's a crowded market. Any of the major brands will have numerous keyboards, from very cheap to ultra expensive. The main thing to remember is you'll get what you pay for, so don't go too cheap.

But, higher prices often indicate extra functions you may not need. Some keyboards rival NASA control panels for complexity. Extra functions are personal preference, but focus on something that mimics a real piano. I recommend:

- full keyboard, 88 keys (or as many as you can afford)
- "weighted" or "touch sensitive" keys, that mimic the feel of an actual piano
- built-in speakers (some keyboards only work through an external amplifier)
- make sure it comes with a sustain pedal, attachable music stand, adjustable holding stand, and bench. (It's possible you would have to buy a holding stand and bench separately).

Respected manufacturers are: Yamaha, Korg, Roland, Casio, Triton, and there's probably others I don't know. Websites like "Musician's Friend" and "Guitar Center" will have tons of stuff, but I recommend "SweetWater.com" for customer service and competitive pricing.

PS: when adjusting your keyboard and bench the optimal position is elbows parallel to the keys, or slightly higher. (Experiment for personal comfort). Also, avoid swivel chairs or anything to "loungy" as these tend to interfere with concentration. There's a reason piano benches are very straight and no-nonsense.