

Flute purchase & beginnings

The application form can be found here: <https://www.bucksmusic.org/book-lessons-2/>.

Obtaining a flute, options are: buy new, hire-purchase scheme, rent, and buy second-hand.

For all options I recommend Yamaha. If it's any other instrument, please ask me first as quality varies. For all prices, please refer direct to the seller as they can change quickly.

Please mention my name when you make contact (Jane Smith).

Recommended shops

- Dawkes – Maidenhead - 01628-630800
- All Flutes Plus – London – 0207-3888438
- Just Flutes – Croydon – 0208-6628400
- Prozone – Chesham – 01494-776262
- Perfect Pitch – Chesham – 01494-774826

Purchase new

[Dawkes price £563.](#)

[All Flutes Plus £525.](#)

Hire-purchase

All Flutes Plus hire-purchase scheme - Yamaha flute around £40 and after 18 payments the flute is yours, or you can give it back at any point. Trevor James (slightly lesser flute) around £28 per month. You may be able to get a more competitive deal elsewhere but I trust the professionalism of the shop and have used them for years. Aftercare is also very important.

Rental

[Dawkes](#) - £20 per month, plus postage £10. Part of payments can be used against a new instrument.

[All Flutes Plus - £30.](#)

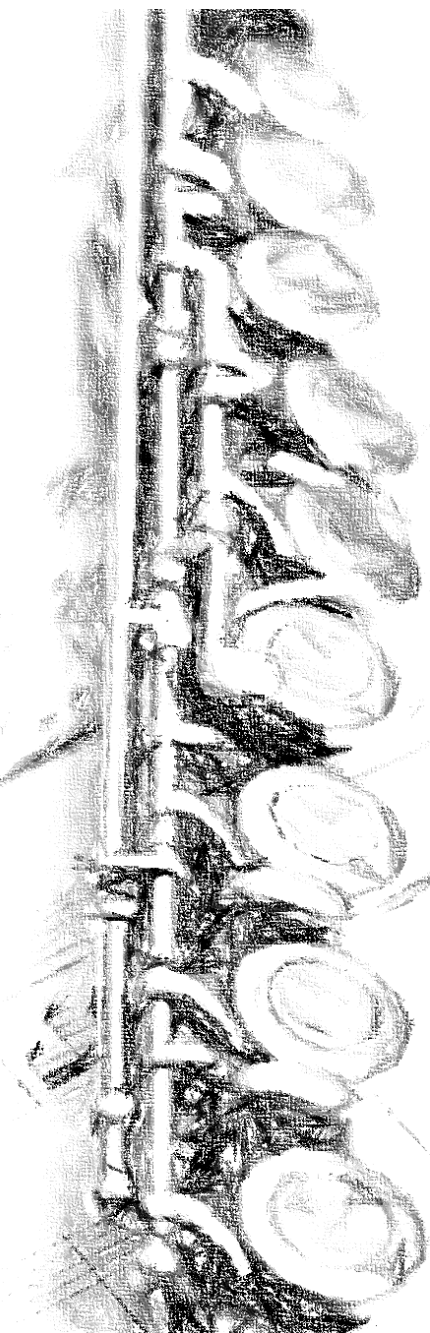
Second-hand

[All Flutes Plus](#) - Yamaha around £390. Stock changes regularly.

[Dawkes](#) – call them on 01628-630800 for their current stock.

Local sources:

I currently have two Yamahas for sale at £250 and £300 which have both just been serviced.



You can also find them locally on various websites, but it's easy for them to be a bit bashed and/or the pads not working well, so you would need to get it checked over before committing.

Coorosh Sabat in Hemel often sells secondhand flutes and will source to order 07964288557.

Music

I recommend Abracadabra Flute, a 'practice notebook' (ABRSM or similar) and a fingering chart. Most flute tutor books are fine so if you have a different book already, do bring it along, eg Learn As You Play, AMA Flute 2000, Trevor Wye A Practice Book for the Flute, Flute Basics etc.

Accessories

Flutes from a recommended shop should come with the following, otherwise they will need to be purchased.

- Cleaning rod.
- Swab (A piece of cut-up cotton pillowcase worked for me for years, or use a muslin-type absorbing cloth.)
- Soft duster for outside of flute.
- Silver polishing cloth for occasional use.

Practice

Learning an instrument is a big commitment and I tell all my students *to aim to practise every day*. I *started* with 30 minutes every day, but I had a very strict mother and I was very keen, and often did a lot more! The more regularly your child practises, the better progress they will make. Less than about 10 minutes three times a week would result in little or no progress. It is good to make it part of the structure of each day, eg straight after school, after tea, or after homework. Intermittent help from parents is also really helpful, especially at the beginning. Practising in front of a mirror is useful to help establish and maintain good posture, meaning less backtracking and reversing bad habits later on.

Other sources of inspiration!

Live music has to be top of this category! Any live concerts, in London or locally, will really inspire. They can include orchestras, soloists or small ensembles. Look for educational concerts at the major concert halls and opera houses.

Listen to flute on YouTube and Spotify and look up lessons to help with *embouchure* and posture.

Music Centre: usually on a Saturday. There are music centres dotted around all the counties, including Amersham and High Wycombe. You can have a tour if you call them, and join an ensemble as soon as possible!