

Buying A Keyboard on A Budget

Priorities

- **88 keys**
 - This is the full amount of keys on a standard piano
 - Buying a keyboard with less than 88 keys means that you WILL outgrow the keyboard. This means you would have to eventually upgrade to a better/bigger keyboard.
 - Keyboards WITH 88 keys are instruments that can last you forever regardless of the level of the pianist.
- **Hammer action, Weighted, or Semi-weighted keys**
 - hammer action is the best, but expensive and not required for beginners.
 - Weighted/semi-weighted keys are important because they will make the keyboard feel more like an acoustic piano as opposed to a plastic toy piano.
- **Must have an input labeled “sustain”**
 - Even if the student is not yet learning how to use the pedals, they will.
 - If your keyboard does not have the correct input for a pedal, you will have to upgrade to a better keyboard.
 - Most keyboards come with a small electronic plug-in pedal, but you can also buy a universal sustain pedal for \$10-\$20.

Highest Quality & Trusted Brands: Yamaha & Casio

Pedals

- It is important for your keyboard to have the ability to have a sustain pedal
- All three pedals are NOT necessary
- Make sure your pedal input is a UNIVERSAL input
 - This is important because if your pedal breaks, or the dog chews through the cord, you can buy a universal, low-cost replacement pedal for \$10-\$15
- If you have a NON-STANDARD pedal input, you would have to buy the exact pedal from the manufacturer at whatever price they offer.
 - Brand name sustain pedals typically cost 4-5X more than universal sustain pedals

This is a universal sustain pedal:



Under \$100

Yamaha PSR-F51



- 61 keys
- entry-level keyboard
- no pedal input
- non-weighted keys
- low quality sound and feel

Casio CTK-2550



- 61 keys
- entry-level keyboard
- no pedal input
- non-weighted keys
- low quality sound and feel

Under \$200

Alesis Recital



- 88 semi-weighted keys
- has proper input for sustain pedal
- has headphone jack
- **medium quality sound and feel**

Hamzer Electronic Keyboard



- 88 semi-weighted keys
- has input for sustain pedal (comes with pedal)
- has headphone jack
- **low quality sound and feel**
- **pedal input is NON-STANDARD, so if pedal breaks, you CANNOT buy a low-cost universal pedal**

Under \$300

Williams Legato III



- 88 touch sensitive keys
- has proper input for sustain pedal
- has headphone jack
- **low quality sound and feel**

RockJam Beginner Digital Piano



- 88 semi-weighted keys
- has proper input for sustain pedal
- has headphone jack
- **low quality sound and medium quality feel**

Yamaha PSR-EW300 SA



- **76 touch sensitive keys**
- has proper input for sustain pedal
- has headphone jack
- **medium quality sound and feel**

Under \$500

Yamaha P-45 (Marissa's Favorite)



- This is a professional level keyboard, but is good for beginners and will last for a lifetime of piano playing.
- 88 weighted keys
- has universal input for pedal
- has headphone jack
- Feels and sounds like a real piano

Casio Privia PX-160



- This is a professional level keyboard, but is good for beginners and will last for a lifetime of piano playing.
- 88 weighted keys
- has universal input for sustain pedal
- has headhone jack
- Feels and sounds like a real piano