



## Guide to buying a Keyboard / Digital Piano and Accessories

### KEYBOARDS / DIGITAL PIANOS

#### Things to consider:

- Cost
- Are you looking for a keyboard or a digital piano? Keyboards usually have a range of function keys (voices, backing rhythms, songs, chord options) but usually don't have touch-sensitive keys. Digital pianos usually have limited function keys / are generally more expensive, but will have touch-sensitive keys.  
The following link may also be helpful when making a decision: [Difference between a Keyboard and Digital Piano](#)
- Size and weight of the keyboard / digital piano.
- Size of the individual keys – full size are better, as this allows a smooth transition to playing a traditional piano, if necessary.
- Does the keyboard / digital piano have sockets to connect to headphones, amps etc.

#### Useful general information:

- [Music Radar - Best Keyboards for Beginners](#)
- [Expert Reviews - Best Digital Piano](#)

These websites provide useful information about what to look for in a keyboard/digital piano, although the instruments listed are fairly expensive.

For Yamaha keyboards (usually very reliable), this might also be useful: [7 Best Yamaha PSR Keyboards](#)

#### Cheaper / older beginner keyboard models to consider:

- Yamaha PSR-F51 (for info – this keyboard is used for o360 sessions). It has a good range of backing styles and voices, along with a good number of full-size keys (preferable, even for smaller hands). Slightly older now, so consider a second-hand version if a new one isn't available.
- Casio CT-S100AD. It's a slimline design, is very light and has its own carry handle. Extra features include:
  - Can be connected to a computer/tablet using a USB cable (not supplied)
  - Allows access to Casio's free Chordana App
  - Includes online access to the Casio Music Academy (free interactive lessons up to Grade 3 standard)

- RockJam RJ654. New versions usually retail slightly cheaper than the Yamaha PSR -F51 and Casio CT-S100AD. A range of sizes available (49, 54 or 61 keys), but the 61 key version with pitch-bend would be preferable, as keys will be smaller on the 49-key, 54-key and 61-key compact versions. Comes with a range of backing styles/voices and access to the Simply Piano app.

All three keyboards above have a range of voices and backing styles available, whereas electric pianos tend to just have a few voices (e.g. piano, electric piano, organ, harpsichord etc) and are usually more expensive.

## KEYBOARD / DIGITAL PIANO ACCESSORIES:

### Stands

For using a keyboard / electric piano, ideally, it's best to have it resting on a stand, unless you're able to adjust the height of a chair when the keyboard/digital piano is on a table (sometimes adding a cushion can help with this). Ideally wrists should be at the same height as elbows when playing, so if the height of the keyboard is too high or low, this can sometimes cause aching wrists and isn't ideal long-term.

The following link may be helpful when looking for keyboard stands: [10 Best Keyboard Stands](#)

Other models to consider:

- Stagg KXS-15 X Style Keyboard Stand. Various heights available, along with the option for single or double bracing.
- Gravity GKSXI X-Form Keyboard Stand. Sturdy/durable design and includes Varifoot levelling foot to compensate for uneven ground.

### Keyboard / Piano Stools

Piano stools are often adjustable, but more expensive, whereas keyboard stands are usually a specific height (so an accompanying stand would need to be adjustable) and cheaper. The following links may be helpful for buying a keyboard or piano stool:

Keyboard stools: [10 Best Keyboard Stools](#)

Piano stools: [10 Best Piano Stools](#)

### Pedals

A pedal is generally used with digital pianos, but some keyboards may have sockets for a sustain pedal. The following link may be helpful when buying a pedal: [10 Best Sustain Pedals](#)