

The Beginner's First Instrument Shopping List

Five complete, ready-to-shop starter kits: guitar, keyboard, ukulele, violin, and drums

Starting an instrument is never just the instrument. A guitar needs a tuner, a keyboard needs a pedal and headphones, a violin needs rosin and the right size. Each kit below bundles the beginner instrument with the small handful of accessories and the method book that actually get a new player to a first song. Click any product name to open it on Amazon. Prices move often, so treat the totals as a planning snapshot and confirm current pricing before you buy.

Guitar Starter Kit

APPROX. \$225

The most popular first instrument: portable, social, and quick to a first song. The Fender ships with a gig bag, so this kit only adds what is missing.

| Product | Approx price | Buy link |
|--|---------------|----------------------|
| Fender FA-15 3/4 Steel String Acoustic Guitar FENDER | \$150.00 | View |
| Snark SN-5X Clip-On Tuner SNARK | \$22.19 | View |
| Dunlop Guitar Pick Variety Pack DUNLOP | \$8.39 | View |
| Kyser Quick-Change Acoustic Guitar Capo KYSER | \$24.95 | View |
| Hal Leonard Guitar Method Complete Edition HAL LEONARD | \$19.99 | View |
| Estimated kit total | ~\$225 | |

Keyboard & Piano Starter Kit

APPROX. \$263

The best instrument for reading music. A light 61-key Casio gets a child playing fast, rounded out with the pedal, headphones, metronome, and method book that build good habits.

| Product | Approx price | Buy link |
|--|---------------|----------------------|
| Casio CT-S200 61-Key Portable Keyboard CASIO | \$130.00 | View |
| On-Stage KSP100 Sustain Pedal ON-STAGE | \$23.95 | View |
| Audio-Technica ATH-M20x Headphones AUDIO-TECHNICA | \$58.00 | View |
| Korg MA-2 Metronome KORG | \$18.99 | View |
| Faber Piano Adventures Primer Level Lesson Book FABER | \$31.91 | View |
| Estimated kit total | ~\$263 | |

Ukulele Starter Kit

APPROX. \$126

The gentlest, lowest-cost way to start and the friendliest on small fingers. A warm mahogany Kala soprano with a tuner, method book, and songbook.

| Product | Approx price | Buy link |
|--|---------------|----------------------|
| Kala KA-15S Mahogany Soprano Ukulele KALA | \$65.00 | View |
| Snark SN-6X Ukulele Tuner SNARK | \$17.99 | View |
| Hal Leonard Ukulele Method Book 1 HAL LEONARD | \$7.99 | View |
| The Daily Ukulele (365 Songs) HAL LEONARD | \$34.63 | View |
| Estimated kit total | ~\$126 | |

Violin Starter Kit

APPROX. \$153

The classic orchestra-and-Suzuki path, sized to your child's arm. A complete Eastar outfit (case, bow, rosin included) plus better rosin, a bow-hold trainer, a metronome, and the school-standard method.

| Product | Approx price | Buy link |
|---|---------------|----------------------|
| Eastar EVA-2 Violin Set (pick the right size) EASTAR | \$85.00 | View |
| D'Addario Natural Light Violin Rosin D'ADDARIO | \$5.99 | View |
| Bow Hold Buddy Bow Trainer THINGS 4 STRINGS | \$32.95 | View |
| Korg MA-2 Metronome KORG | \$18.99 | View |
| Essential Elements for Strings, Violin Book 1 HAL LEONARD | \$10.20 | View |
| Estimated kit total | ~\$153 | |

Drums Starter Kit

APPROX. \$472

For the kid who cannot stop tapping. An electronic Alesis Nitro Mesh kit gives real drum feel with headphone-quiet practice and a small footprint, plus sticks, headphones, and a metronome.

| Product | Approx price | Buy link |
|---|---------------|----------------------|
| Alesis Nitro Mesh Kit Electronic Drum Set ALESIS | \$380.00 | View |
| Vic Firth 5A Drumsticks VIC FIRTH | \$14.99 | View |
| Audio-Technica ATH-M20x Headphones AUDIO-TECHNICA | \$58.00 | View |
| Korg MA-2 Metronome KORG | \$18.99 | View |
| Estimated kit total | ~\$472 | |

Prices and availability are planning estimates only and change often. Our recommendations are researched, not professional music instruction or safety advice. Always confirm sizing, specs, and current pricing on Amazon before you buy.

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