

## Howarth Mini-Bassoon and Tenoroon

The Howarth mini-bassoon and tenoroon are instruments designed for children. They are played using standard fingerings and reeds, so it is easy for children to progress onto a full-size instrument when they are ready. Previously children had to wait until they were physically capable of holding a bassoon, which could lead to them choosing a different musical path. The introduction of the mini-bassoon and tenoroon allow children to learn on an instrument designed for their capabilities.

The mini-bassoon and tenoroon are smaller than the standard bassoon. The mini-bassoon is suitable for children as young as seven as it is only two thirds of the full bassoon's height and approximately 30% of its weight. It is pitched in G, a fifth higher than a bassoon. The tenoroon is aimed at slightly older children as it is marginally larger than the mini-bassoon and pitched in F, a fourth higher than the bassoon. Standard teaching materials can be used as many pieces are available with appropriately transposed accompaniments. The mini-bassoons and tenoroons feature on notation software making it easy to transpose other pieces of music and piano accompaniments as needed.

The mini-bassoon and tenoroon are made from the same high-quality materials used to make full-size bassoons. They have carefully crafted nickel-silver keys, which are given a generous coating of silver-plate. The body of each instrument is made from European maple, and like a full-size bassoon, has an ebonite lining to protect the wood from moisture. Metal caps are fitted to the instrument's wing joint for protection, which helps to stop water entering the end grain of the wood and separating the ebonite liner from the wooden part of the joint.

Mini-bassoons and tenoroons are supplied in a sturdy backpack case with cleaning materials, reedcase and a sling. We also include our own design of handrest for the mini-bassoon and tenoroon to ensure that the student's hand is closer to the main body of the instrument. This makes the instrument more comfortable to hold and play.

Detailed diagrams showing how to assemble the instrument are included, making it easier for parents to support their children in the first stages of learning.



We fit a metal cap to the wing joint of the mini-bassoon and tenoroon to protect the tenon from water



We make our own design of handrest for the mini-bassoon and tenoroon



The instruments come in a backpack case with room for accessories

## Mini-Bassoon

- Designed for players from 7 years old
- Around 30% of the full bassoon's weight
- In G, a 5th higher than a bassoon
- Uses same fingerings as the full-size bassoon
- Body in traditional European Maple
- Silver-plated keywork

## Tenoroon

- Designed for players around 9 years old
- Around 35% of the full bassoon's weight
- In F, a 4th higher than a bassoon



Once classed as an 'endangered' instrument, the bassoon is gaining popularity due to the development of mini-bassoons.

Photograph by Kevin Leighton from LSO On Track - Lite of Spring, April 2007



## Children's Bassoons

Bassoon manufacturers Oscar Adler & Co. and Amati have adapted standard designs of instruments especially for children. Both the Adler 1350 and the Amati ABN 32c children's bassoons are a great stepping stone from the mini-bassoon or tenoroon for students who are not ready for the weight of a full-size bassoon.

The children's bassoons are lighter than traditional models as they have no bell, making the lowest note a C. Both models can play three chromatic octaves and are at the same sounding pitch as a traditional model. They are played using standard reeds and fingerings. The bass notes of the Adler 1350 can be improved by using the optional 'Plexi Resonator' (shown in the image), to enhance the tuning without adding weight to the instrument.

The Amati ABN 32c has adapted keywork that can be described as 'ultra-short reach'. The left-hand thumb keys have been extended to make it easier for those with small hands to play the instrument comfortably. The Adler 1350 bassoon has the standard 'basic system' keywork expected on a short-reach student instrument with a clever indent in the wood of the long joint to help the player reach the left-hand keys more easily. This model can be purchased with or without a whisper key.

Both instruments come with a balance hanger, which alters the bassoon's centre of gravity and distributes the weight more evenly between the two hands to better support the bassoon. The instruments are supplied in a gigbag with cleaning materials and a crook. The Adler crook is a special 'deep-bend' model positioned at an angle that makes the reed easier for younger players to reach while playing.



A balance hanger is supplied with the instruments to make them easier to hold.



The Adler 1350 has an indent in the wood to help the player reach the left-hand keys.



Amati ABN 32c Bassoon

Adler 1350 Bassoon



# Howarth *of* London

## **London Showrooms**

31 Chiltern Street, London, W1U 7PN, UK

## **Education Department**

19 Buckingham Road, Worthing, West Sussex, BN11 1TH, UK  
education@howarthlondon.com

[howarthlondon.com](http://howarthlondon.com)