

Horns for beginners and converts

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Single F

PROS: Inexpensive, fairly light, easy to purchase or rent, traditional sound, play well in lower range

CONS: Bottom of the line quality, difficult to articulate and play accurately in the upper register, somewhat hard to hold, not usable in band music beyond junior high, difficult to start on for beginners



Single B^b

PROS: Inexpensive, light and compact, the easiest type of horn to articulate and play accurately, will give better initial success, easier to play in the high range than single F

CONS: Not commonly seen in the United States, lighter/brighter tone color



Double (F/B^b)

PROS: A standard instrument used in all types of ensembles, characteristic tone, many high quality options for instruments, if started on double a student will not need to switch to one later

CONS: Relatively heavy, hard for young students to hold, more expensive



F Mellophone

PROS: Easier than the horn to articulate and play accurately, can be played by a trumpet convert with ease (trumpet fingerings/similar mouthpiece) and a woodwind convert can start on it with relative ease in marching season

CONS: Some directors require use of the stock (non-horn) mouthpiece, fingerings are not horn fingerings, rather different feel, intonation problems are common



B^b Marching Horn

PROS: Similar feel to B^b side of double horn, reinforces horn playing skills, built to use horn mouthpiece, bigger sound than mellophone

CONS: Not as responsive as mellophone, heavier

For more specific suggestions as to horns and mouthpieces please visit http://www.public.asu.edu/~jqerics/sug_hnmp.htm

Also check out **Horn Articles Online**, <http://www.hornarticles.com>