

Piano/Keyboard Equipment



USE THIS AS A GUIDE. THERE ARE MANY OPTIONS, SO
LOOK AT REVIEWS AND COMPARE. YOU CAN ALSO
BORROW A KEYBOARD! BE CREATIVE!

EQUIPMENT

Keep this simple. If you don't have an acoustic piano, don't let that stop you! Many don't have room for that in their homes. You can start with just a simple 61-key portable keyboard you pick up at Costco--there's nothing wrong with that! However, I'm adding a few more resources here for comparison and reviews.

If you are in the market for purchasing a keyboard, I recommend at least a 76 key keyboard. A full keyboard is 88 keys which is great if you have the room. There are many choices but some top suggestions from reviews are listed below.

A console electronic keyboard is stationary. The keyboard is built into the stand and the stands come in a variety of finishes. Keyboards have different features, so review them. You won't regret getting a quality electronic keyboard. The technology has come a long way, even providing weighted keys. Weighted keys feel closer to the feel of an acoustic piano. Standard electronic pianos are very light to the touch, almost like an electronic organ. Make sure the keys are normal size. I don't see too many out there with "mini keys" but watch for that! (I think this was mainly the Casio brand)

If you have an **acoustic piano**, that is a great option for these courses! Acoustic pianos are either **uprights or grand pianos**. They contain hammers that hit the strings and also have pedals. I would recommend getting your acoustic piano tuned if it's not been played in awhile. In fact, getting it tuned every 6 months is a good idea, though not absolutely necessary.

Sustain pedals come separately for electronic keyboards, unless a console model. The pedal, when pressed, holds the notes until the pedal is released. Acoustic pianos also include pedals. For these courses, you only need to know about the sustain pedal, though I will talk about the features of the other two from time to time.

I have included some examples of some of the top-rated products below. Most links go directly to Amazon.com. Also compare products and prices with Costco and other areas. You can usually find the "ratings" for most any product.

**MAKE THIS SIMPLE. ALL YOU REALLY NEED ARE THE
BASICS TO BEGIN: A KEYBOARD AND PEDAL!**

WHAT YOU NEED TO START (some are optional!)

1. **Electronic piano keyboard** (either with built-in speaker, or external monitor) OR
2. **Acoustic piano** relatively in tune.
3. **Stand for electronic keyboard.** You can also use a small table.
4. **Pedal for electronic keyboard.**
5. **Headphones for electronic keyboard.** (*optional, but they will give you freedom to practice at any time!*)
6. **Music Stand for electronic keyboard if not included.**
7. **Metronome** is totally optional. It's a fun tool to have if you want to increase your tempo (*speed*)

PRICES ARE APPROXIMATE & CHANGE OFTEN!

Top-rated & Popular Electronic Keyboards



- [Yamaha PSR-EW300 SA 76-Key Portable Keyboard Bundle With Stand And Power Supply](#) \$269.99 Internal speaker
- [Casio WK-245 PPK 76-Key Premium Portable Keyboard Package with Headphones, Stand and Power Supply](#) \$259.95 Internal speaker
- [Yamaha P71 88-Key Weighted Action Digital Piano With Sustain Pedal And Power Supply](#) (Amazon-Exclusive) From \$449.99 Internal speaker
- [Yamaha P-125 88-Note Digital Piano with Weighted GHS Action, Black + Keyboard Stand + Keyboard Bench + Keyboard Pedal + Studio Monitor Headphones](#) \$729.00 (midi?)
- [Yamaha YDP103 Arius Series Digital Console Piano with Bench, Dark Rosewood](#) \$899.99 (console)
- [Roland Compact 88-key Digital Piano with Built-In Speaker, contemporary black \(F-140R-CB\)](#) \$1329.99 (console) I do like Roland equipment-it's more professional & very reliable.

Sustain Pedals

- [M Audio SP 2 | Universal Sustain Pedal with Piano Style Action For MIDI Keyboards, Digital Pianos & More](#) \$19.00 (regular)
- [Yamaha FC4A Assignable Piano Sustain Foot Pedal, MultiColored](#) \$28.95
- [Mugig MY-1 Universal Sustain Pedal, Piano Foot Pedal for Electronic Keyboards, MIDI Keyboards, Digital Piano \(1/4-inch Jack\)](#) \$10.99

Earphones (Headphones)



(you don't need a mic!)

- [Sony MDRZX110/BLK ZX Series Stereo Headphones \(Black\)](#) \$14.99
- Highly recommended: [OneOdio Adapter-Free Closed Back Over Ear DJ Stereo Monitor Headphones, Professional Studio Monitor & Mixing, Telescopic Arms with Scale, Newest 50mm Neodymium Drivers](#) - Black \$37.99
- Amazon's Choice: [Yamaha HPH-50B Compact Closed-Back Headphones, Black](#) \$28.48

Monitor



(only needed if you don't have an internal speaker on an electronic keyboard)

- Behringer Eurolive B205D Ultra-Compact 150-Watt PA/Monitor Speaker System \$238.00 also for microphone with single speaker- 7 lbs. *Behringer is very good quality & this speaker is lightweight-a definite plus!*

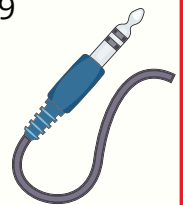
Metronome



(not needed for courses, but a fun option for increasing tempos!)

- Mini Digital Metronome, Multifunctional, Portable, Volume Adjustable, Clip on, with Speaker, Beat Tempo, with Battery for Piano, Guitar, Saxophone, Flute, Violin, Drum (Black) \$9.99
- Amazon's Choice: Seiko SQ50-V Quartz Metronome \$25.52

Instrument Cable



(for connecting your keyboard to a monitor if no internal speaker)

- KabelDirekt - 6.3mm Mono Instrument Cable, Guitar Cable - 20 feet - (Audio Cable for Connecting Electric Guitars, Bass Guitars, or Keyboards to Amplifier) - Pro Series \$14.99
- Fender Professional 10' Instrument Cable - Black (comes in different lengths) Starts \$15.00

Music Stand



- AmazonBasics Portable Sheet Music Stand - Black \$35.99



This resource list is meant to be a guide. I have personally not used all these particular products and brands, but believe they could all work well for you. Some of the better known "brands" included in this list are Yamaha, Roland, Behringer, Fender & Casio. If you have an acoustic piano that has not been played in years, dust it off and use it! If a couple notes don't play, most tuners can resolve that issue. I have a 6' Blüthner parlor-grand piano. It has been well-worth the investment to refurbish it through the years! You are investing in YOU as you pursue music. Enjoy the journey and I look forward to your progress and fun ahead!

Deborah Johnson