Band Instrument Pictures and Descriptions
Woodwind, Brass, & Percussion Instruments

Flute

Because flutes were once made of wood, they are still classified as woodwinds. Most modern flutes are made of silver, nickel, or a combination of both. Flutes do not have a reed – they are played by blowing over a hole near the end of the tube. There are keys that cover the tone holes. You press down on the keys to produce different notes.

Clarinet

Most clarinets are made from composition materials or from a special African wood called Grenadilla. Clarinets have a single reed mouthpiece and keys that open and close over holes in the tube to make different sounds.

Saxophone

The saxophone has a tapered brass body and an upturned bell. The sound of the saxophone can range from very high to quite low; from the shrill and whining to bold and brassy. There are keys that cover the tone holes. You press down on the keys to produce different notes.

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Trumpet

Trumpets are the soprano voice of the brass family and are used extensively in the band.

Trombone

The name trombone means "big trumpet" and the tone quality of the trombone really earns that name. The trombone has a big rich tone that is used as the tenor voice. Instead of using valves, like the other brass instruments, the different notes are made by moving a slide.

Baritone (Euphonium)

Although it is usually used as a harmony instrument in both small groups and large bands, the baritone or euphonium is also fine for solo work. Its pitch is the same as the trombone, and the tone is big and round. The baritone is played a lot like the trumpet, but it is much bigger, so the sound is much deeper.

Percussion

The percussion instruments include snare drum, bells, xylophone, timpani, bass drum, cymbals, and many other accessory instruments. Percussion students start with a BELL KIT, learning to play melodies on bells and then start with snare drum techniques on a drum pad.