

Kawai CA-501 vs Yamaha CLP-745

Digital Piano: Differences, Specs & Price

Meta Description: Compare Kawai CA-501 vs Yamaha CLP-745 digital pianos. Expert analysis of key action, sound quality, features, and pricing.



Alt text: Kawai CA-501.

Key Takeaways

- The Kawai CA-501 offers the most authentic piano feel with its all-wooden Grand Feel Compact key action, making it ideal for classical pianists and those seeking a genuine acoustic piano experience.

- Yamaha's CLP-745 excels with dual world-class piano samples (CFX and Bösendorfer Imperial), providing superior tonal variety for different musical styles.
- Both pianos feature wooden keys, but their action mechanisms differ significantly in feel, weight, and response.
- [At Sam Ash](#), both the Kawai CA-501 and Yamaha CLP-745 are available with 36-month financing, expert consultation, and our 45-day return policy.

Kawai CA-501 vs Yamaha CLP-745: Which Premium Digital Piano Wins?

Choosing between premium digital pianos can be challenging, especially when comparing two industry giants like the Kawai CA-501 and Yamaha CLP-745.

Both instruments represent the pinnacle of digital piano technology in their price bracket, but they offer distinctly different playing experiences.

For a pianist, a digital piano is more than just an instrument; it's a musical voice and creative partner. The differences between these two models go beyond specifications on paper; they extend to how each piano feels under your fingers and responds to your musical intentions.

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Sound Quality Showdown: How These Pianos Create Music



Caption: The Kawai CA-501 and Yamaha CLP-745 take different approaches to recreating the complex, nuanced sound of acoustic pianos, resulting in distinctive tonal characters that appeal to different musical sensibilities.

Alt text: Kawai CA-501.

Kawai's SK-EX Rendering vs Yamaha's CFX and Bösendorfer Sampling

Kawai CA-501 Sound Engine:

[The CA-501](#) features Kawai's renowned Harmonic Imaging XL (HI-XL) technology, which captures the sound of Kawai's flagship Shigeru Kawai SK-EX concert grand piano.

This advanced multi-channel sampling system records each note from multiple positions, preserving the complex tonal character of this remarkable instrument.

The Harmonic Imaging XL engine excels at reproducing the warm, rich tone that Kawai pianos are famous for, with particular strength in the mid-range that makes melody lines sing with exceptional clarity. With 256-note polyphony, even the most complex passages with the sustain pedal won't suffer from note drop-out.

The piano's 45 total instrument sounds provide solid variety, but the acoustic piano voices are clearly the star attraction. The Acoustic Rendering feature reproduces [piano](#) resonance authentically, adding depth and emotional impact to your performances.

Yamaha CLP-745 Sound Engine:

[The CLP-745](#) takes a different approach by offering two distinct world-class piano samples: Yamaha's own CFX concert grand and the legendary Bösendorfer Imperial.

This combination provides exceptional tonal variety that spans from the bright, powerful projection of the CFX to the warm, rich bass and distinctive character of the Bösendorfer.

Key Sound Features:

- Dual concert grand samples (CFX and Bösendorfer Imperial)
- 256-note polyphony
- Binaural sampling for 3D headphone experience
- 38 preset voices
- Greater tonal versatility across genres

The binaural sampling technology creates an immersive 3D sound experience when using headphones, making the CLP-745 particularly appealing for those who frequently practice silently.

This advanced sampling method captures the spatial characteristics of piano sound, creating a more realistic and engaging experience during private practice sessions.

Design and Build Quality



Caption: Both Kawai and Yamaha have outstanding reputations for build quality, but their design philosophies differ in notable ways.

Alt text: Yamaha CLP-745.

Available Finishes and Cabinet Styles

Kawai CA-501 Finishes:

- Premium Satin Black
- Premium Satin White
- Premium Rosewood
- Mocha Walnut (available at Sam Ash)

The cabinet design leans toward traditional aesthetics, featuring gentle curves and classic proportions that complement traditional or transitional home décor. The overall impression is one of refinement and understated luxury.

Yamaha CLP-745 Finishes:

- Polished Ebony
- White
- Dark Walnut
- Black Walnut
- Dark Rosewood

The CLP-745's design takes a slightly more contemporary approach with cleaner lines and a more modern silhouette. This aesthetic versatility allows it to blend well with various interior design styles from modern to traditional.

Physical Dimensions and Weight

Specification	Kawai CA-501	Yamaha CLP-745
Width	145 cm (57.1")	146 cm (57.5")
Depth	47 cm (18.5")	46.3 cm (18.2")
Height (lid closed)	92.5 cm (36.4")	92.7 cm (36.5")
Weight	66 kg (145.5 lbs)	60 kg (132 lbs)



Caption: The dimensions of both instruments are quite similar, though the Kawai CA-501 is slightly heavier due to its all-wood key action and robust internal components.

Alt text: A person playing the Kawai CA-501.

Music Rest and Control Panel Layout

Kawai CA-501:

Features a wide, sturdy music rest with a collapsible design that can accommodate thick music books and sheet music comfortably.

The control panel is elegantly minimalist, with touch-sensitive buttons integrated into a clean 128 x 64 pixel OLED display panel positioned on the left side of the keyboard.

The interface prioritizes simplicity, keeping technical controls tucked away in menus to maintain a clean, uncluttered appearance that mimics traditional acoustic pianos.

Yamaha CLP-745:

It features a full-dot LCD display with straightforward controls. The interface is intuitive, with dedicated buttons for common functions allowing faster access to frequently-used features. The music rest is sturdy and accommodates standard sheet music and books.

Both pianos include sliding key covers that protect the keyboard when not in use.

Price Analysis: What You Get For Your Money

Kawai CA-501

- **MSRP:** \$5,399.00
- **Was:** \$4,099.00
- **NOW:** \$3,799.00
- **Total Savings:** \$1,600.00 at Sam Ash
- **36-Month Financing:** About \$106/month

Yamaha CLP-745

- **MSRP:** \$4,199.00
- **NOW:** \$3,799.99
- **Total Savings:** \$399.01 at Sam Ash
- **36-Month Financing:** About \$106/month

Although the current pricing is identical, the Kawai CA-501 originally carried a higher MSRP, reflecting its all-wooden key action and more powerful speaker system.

The current price match makes this an excellent time to choose based purely on playing preference rather than budget.

Disclaimer: Pricing and availability are subject to change. Please visit [Sam Ash](#) to explore our digital piano selection, or contact us online to speak with our specialists.

Value Proposition of Each Model

Kawai CA-501 Value:

- All-wooden key action (premium construction)
- More powerful 100W speaker system
- Comprehensive Virtual Technician (21 parameters)
- Full Bluetooth (MIDI + Audio)
- Larger price reduction (\$1,600 savings)
- Best for authentic acoustic piano experience

Yamaha CLP-745 Value:

- Two world-class piano samples (CFX + Bösendorfer)
- Yamaha's legendary reliability
- Binaural sampling for headphone use
- Smart Pianist and Visual Performer app integration
- Lighter, more accessible key action
- Best for tonal versatility and Yamaha brand loyalty

Long-term Investment Considerations



Caption: Both instruments represent significant investments that should serve you for 10–20+ years with proper care.

Alt text: Kawai CA-501.

1. **Resale Value:** Yamaha instruments typically hold value slightly better due to brand recognition, though both manufacturers have excellent reputations.
2. **Durability:** Both manufacturers are known for exceptional build quality. The Kawai's all-wooden action may require slightly more careful climate control but offers greater authenticity.
3. **Growing With Your Skills:** The Kawai's more demanding action may challenge beginners but won't be outgrown. The Yamaha's lighter touch is more immediately accessible.
4. **Service Network:** Both manufacturers have excellent service networks, though Yamaha's is slightly more extensive globally.

Comparison: Kawai CA-501 vs Yamaha CLP-745

Feature	Kawai CA-501	Yamaha CLP-745
Key Action	Grand Feel Compact (all-wooden keys)	GrandTouch-S (wooden white keys, synthetic black keys)
Sound Engine	Harmonic Imaging XL (HI-XL)	CFX + Bösendorfer Imperial sampling
Piano Samples	Shigeru Kawai SK-EX	CFX and Bösendorfer Imperial
Total Voices	45	38
Polyphony	256 notes	256 notes
Headphone Technology	Spatial Headphone Sound	Binaural sampling
Bluetooth	MIDI + Audio	MIDI + Audio
USB Connectivity	USB to Host, USB to Device	USB to Host
Display	128 x 64 pixel OLED	Full-dot LCD
Dimensions (W×D×H)	145 × 47 × 92.5 cm	146 × 46.3 × 92.7 cm
Weight	76 kg (167.5 lbs)	71 kg (156.5 lbs)
Available Finishes	4 (including Mocha Walnut)	5 (including Polished Ebony)
MSRP	\$5,399.00	\$4,199.00
Current Price at Sam Ash	\$3,799.00	\$3,799.99
Total Savings	\$1,600.00	\$399.01
36-Month Financing	~\$106/month	~\$106/month
Best For	Authentic grand piano feel, classical players	Tonal versatility, headphone practice

Make Your Choice With Confidence

Choosing between the Kawai CA-501 and Yamaha CLP-745 ultimately comes down to your personal priorities: authentic grand piano touch (Kawai) or tonal versatility (Yamaha),

powerful speakers (Kawai) or binaural headphone experience (Yamaha), deep customization (Kawai) or straightforward reliability (Yamaha).

[At Sam Ash](#), we remove the guesswork by providing expert phone consultations, expert guidance, and generous policies that let you choose with confidence.

Visit [SamAsh.com](https://www.samash.com) to explore both models, or call 800-472-6274 to speak with our piano specialists.

With over 100 years of experience, 36-month financing (about \$106/month), [professional delivery](#), and a 45-day [return policy](#), we make it easy to own the premium digital piano that's right for you.

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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

How much do the Kawai CA-501 and Yamaha CLP-745 cost?

Both pianos are currently priced at \$3,799 at Sam Ash. The Kawai CA-501 (regularly \$4,099, MSRP \$5,399) offers a savings of \$1,600. The Yamaha CLP-745 (MSRP \$4,199) offers a savings of \$399.01. Both are available with 36-month financing at about \$106/month.

Which piano has better key action, the CA-501 or CLP-745?

The Kawai CA-501's Grand Feel Compact action with all-wooden keys (white and black) provides a more authentic grand piano feel and is generally considered superior for classical repertoire and advanced technique development. The Yamaha CLP-745's GrandTouch-S action (wooden white keys, synthetic black keys) offers excellent playability with a slightly lighter touch that some players may prefer, particularly those with smaller hands or coming from Yamaha acoustic pianos.

Can I connect these pianos to my computer or mobile device?

The Kawai CA-501 provides comprehensive connectivity, including Bluetooth MIDI and audio, USB to Host, USB to Device, and standard MIDI ports. This allows wireless connection to computers and mobile devices for recording, apps, and audio streaming. The Yamaha CLP-745 also features built-in Bluetooth MIDI and Audio, allowing for seamless connection to smart devices and apps like Smart Pianist.

How do the sound engines differ between these two models?

The Kawai CA-501 uses Harmonic Imaging XL (HI-XL) technology, focusing on detailed reproduction of Kawai's Shigeru Kawai SK-EX concert grand, with particular strength in tonal warmth and resonance. It offers 45 total sounds with 256-note polyphony.

The Yamaha CLP-745 employs CFX and Bösendorfer Imperial sampling with binaural optimization, offering two distinct world-class piano voices that provide greater tonal variety. It features 38 preset voices with 256-note polyphony. Kawai excels in depth and character within its primary voice; Yamaha offers more tonal options across different piano samples.

Does Sam Ash offer delivery and setup for these pianos?

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