



FREE BUYING GUIDE

7 things to feel for before you buy a piano

Digital, acoustic or silent: how to find the piano you'll want to sit down at every day.

Before you start

There are thousands of pianos, and the spec sheets can make them all look alike. But the right piano isn't the one with the most features. It's the one that feels good under your fingers, fits your home and your daily life, and that you still look forward to a year from now.

So this guide is less about numbers and more about paying attention to how things feel. Take it with you when you try pianos, or use it as a checklist before you order online.

Digital piano

Sound through speakers or headphones. Never needs tuning. Takes up little space and can be moved.

zoziza.com/en/digital-piano

Acoustic piano

Real strings and hammers. A living sound that fills the room. Needs tuning and a stable indoor climate.

zoziza.com/en/acoustic-piano

Silent piano

An acoustic piano with a built-in silent system. Play freely during the day, with headphones at night.

zoziza.com/en/silent-piano

Stage piano

Made for the stage and the band, not the living room. Often has no speakers and sits on a stand. See the separate guide.

zoziza.com/en/stage-piano

THE MOST IMPORTANT RULE

Buy the piano you want to play, not the one that looks best on paper.

1

Feel the keys before you listen

Sound can be adjusted, but the feel of the keys stays with you every day. Sit down, close your eyes and play very softly, then loudly.

- ☐ Can you play really softly without the note disappearing?
- ☐ Does the key come back evenly when you repeat the same note quickly?
- ☐ Do your wrists and shoulders still feel relaxed after five minutes?

DIGITAL PIANO

Choose only models with **88 fully weighted hammer-action keys**. Semi-weighted keys, or fewer than 88, teach your fingers something different from a real piano.

2

Find the spot before you find the piano

Measure before you fall in love. A piano needs room for the bench and for you, and it has to fit through the door and up the stairs.

- ☐ Acoustic: away from radiators, stoves and direct sunlight. Stable humidity (about 40–60 %) keeps it in tune longer.
- ☐ Digital: close to a power outlet, ideally against a wall so the sound can fill the room.
- ☐ Living upstairs with no lift? Ask about delivery before you buy.

Think about the neighbours and the clock

When will you play? If the answer is "in the evening, when the kids are asleep" or "early in the morning", your piano needs to be able to play quietly.

- **Digital:** headphones solve it instantly.
- **Acoustic:** a practice pedal softens the sound, but it still travels through the floor.
- **Silent piano:** the acoustic feel by day and complete silence at night. The best of both worlds, but also the most expensive.

Listen in the room where it will live

In a shop or a video, everything sounds big. At home in the living room, it's a different story.

- ☐ Digital: listen at low volume. A good piano sounds full even when it's quiet, not only when it's turned up.
- ☐ When comparing, use the same headphones you'll play with at home.
- ☐ Acoustic: a small room with hard surfaces makes the sound louder and brighter. A rug and some curtains can make a big difference.

A SMALL TEST

Play the same piece on two pianos. Which one made you stay a little longer?

5

Check the pedals, the bench and the stability

Small things that matter a lot when you play every day.

- ☐ Three pedals, like an acoustic piano, so your feet learn the right habits from the start.
- ☐ Can the right pedal be pressed only partway down (half-pedalling)? It gives you more control over the sound.
- ☐ Does the piano stay completely still when you play hard? A wobbly stand tires your arms.
- ☐ A bench at the right height: elbows slightly above the keys, feet flat on the floor.

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Count the whole cost, not just the piano

Digital

- Bench
- Good headphones
- Stand and pedal unit, if not included

Acoustic and silent

- Delivery, often with a stairs surcharge
- Tuning once or twice a year
- A humidifier, if needed

A slightly more expensive piano you play for ten years is a better deal than a cheap one that gathers dust.

New or used?

A **used digital piano** can be a good buy if every key is even and none of them clicks or makes noise. Check the most-played keys in the middle of the keyboard especially.

A **used acoustic piano** can be a treasure or an expensive surprise. Have a piano tuner look it over before you pay. It costs a little but can save you a lot.

New gives you a warranty, peace of mind, and a piano that has only ever got used to you.

Your in-store checklist

- ☐ 88 fully weighted keys (digital)
- ☐ Soft notes are easy to play and sustain
- ☐ Space, door and stairs measured
- ☐ A plan for evening playing (headphones or silent)
- ☐ Sounds good at low volume
- ☐ Three pedals and a stable stand
- ☐ The whole cost, incl. bench, delivery and tuning

Do one thing today

Sit at a piano for five minutes and notice how it feels. It tells you more than ten product pages.

See the pianos ZOZIZA has selected: zoziza.com/en/top · **digital** · **acoustic** · **silent**