

Clarinet Mentors - Reed Choices

Recommendations by Michelle Anderson

There are many brands of reeds to choose from. A better quality reed will definitely help you to sound better, and in some cases can last longer for you. Every person has their own preferences, and I encourage you to test out some different types, and decide what works best for you.

You can find a YouTube video that accompanies this list at: <http://youtu.be/5bxa2D0cPuY> and <http://youtu.be/wCXOqJky8Lw>.

This is not a total list of all reed types that are available, but it does represent some good reeds that my own students like and use.

Intermediate Level

Rico Royal - This is a step up from the basic student level reeds.
<http://www.woodwinds.daddario.com/woodwindsReedClarinetBb.Page?ActiveID=4678>

Mitchell Lurie - This is one of my favourite intermediate level reeds. They do run a bit soft, so I recommend you try a half size stronger, or higher, than your usual reed strength.
<http://www.woodwinds.daddario.com/woodwindsReedClarinetBb.Page?ActiveID=4678>

Gonzales - These have some very good qualities, although many people find that they do not last as long as other reeds.
<http://www.gonzalezreeds.com/english/products.html#http://www.gonzalezreeds.com/images/products/gonzalez-reeds-clarinet-bb-for-our-friends-10.jpg>

Advanced Level

Vandoren V12 - This is my personal favourite reed, and it is used by the majority of my advanced students.
http://www.vandoren-en.com/V-12-Clarinet-Reeds_a34.html

Vandoren 56 Rue Lepic - This is also a good high end reed that some players prefer to the V12.
http://www.vandoren-en.com/56-Rue-Lepic-Clarinet-Reeds_a35.html

Rico Reserve - This is a higher end reed that many good players enjoy.
<http://www.woodwinds.daddario.com/woodwindsReedClarinetBb.Page?ActiveID=4678>

Rico Grand Concert Select - This is another higher end reed that works well for some players.
<http://www.woodwinds.daddario.com/woodwindsReedClarinetBb.Page?ActiveID=4678>

Plastic Reeds

Many people do enjoy a plastic reed because they are much more consistent and reliable than cane. They have improved considerably in tone quality recently. In my opinion, the best plastic reed is made by Legere. Backun Musical Services has started a new line of mouthpieces, the "L" series, designed specifically to help these reeds sound better. They are pretty good. I have not yet been convinced that they sound as good a cane reed, but they are worth trying. If you want a reed that will always come out of your case and play pretty well, and last a long time, it is worth a try.

<http://www.legere.com/ourreeds/clarinetreeds>

Reed Cases

LaVoz Reed Guard - The best very inexpensive reed case. This is definitely better than what your reeds come in!

<http://www.amazon.com/DAddario-RGRD2BCL24-Reedguard-Clarinet-alto/dp/B0002FOJ4Q>

Rico Reed Revitalizer Case - Another step up.

<http://www.wwbw.com/Rico-Multi-Instrument-Reed-Vitalizer-Case-581623-i1446429.wwbw>

Vandoren Reed Case - Somewhat similar to the Rico, also good quality

<http://www.vandoren.com/en/accessories.html>

J. Winter Cases - beautiful and good quality

<http://www.wwbw.com/J--Winter-Reed-Cases-463869-i1429208.wwbw>

Selmer Reed Cases - these come in different sizes and are also excellent quality

<http://www.muncywinds.com/index.php/clarinet/accessories/reed-cases/selmer-clarinet-6-reed-case.html>

This, and other resources designed to help you play the clarinet more easily can be found in the Clarinet Mentors Community. Join for free at: www.learnclarinetnow.com.