
HOWARTH MINI-BASSOON PLUS+

HOWARTH TENOROON

Mini-Bassoon PLUS+

- Pitched 5th above full instrument
- Lined fingerholes and down bore
- Suitable from 6 or 7 years old
- Same fingerings as full-size bassoon
- Weight is 30% of full instrument

Tenoroon

- Pitched 4th above full instrument
- Lined fingerholes and down bore
- Suitable from 8 or 9 years old
- Same fingerings as full-size bassoon
- Can be used as tenor instrument in wind ensemble
- Weight is 35% of full instrument

“The introduction of a high quality, smaller instrument has huge potential and will enable teachers, music schools and education authorities across the country to begin training the bassoonists of tomorrow.”

Paul Harris - Freelance player and Bassoon specialist for London Borough of Havering & London Borough of Barking & Dagenham

For further details and prices please contact our bassoon specialist William Ring in London or at the Manufacturing Workshops.



WOODWIND INSTRUMENT SPECIALISTS

Howarth of London Ltd

Head Office: 31 Chiltern St, London, W1U 7PN
Tel: +44 (0)20 7935 2407 Fax: +44 (0)20 7224 2564

Manufacturing Division: 19 Buckingham Rd, Worthing, West Sussex, BN11 1TH
Tel: +44 (0)1903 239219 Fax: +44 (0)1903 232233

Web: www.howarth.uk.com **E-mail:** sales@howarth.uk.com

REAL BASSOONS FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

Howarth Mini-Bassoon PLUS+ Howarth Tenoroon

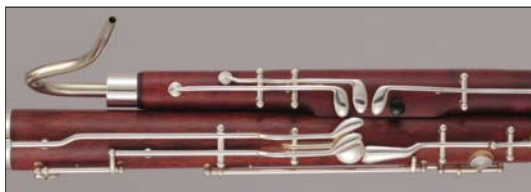


Where can I find a bassoonist? That is often the cry of concern in music education circles. But the fact that certain orchestral instruments are now alarmingly under-represented may only be partly attributable to the decline in funding. Bass instruments have the further handicap that they are literally “out of the reach” of smaller children - they are just too large for small hands to manage. Clearly the bassoon is one such instrument.

Starting younger children on another wind instrument, and later transferring them to the bassoon is only a partial solution. There still remains the problem that ensembles of younger players lack a true bass instrument. Given that classical harmony is defined by reference to the bass note of the chord or texture, it is clearly important that children’s ensembles are not deprived of that essential element.

What is the answer?

To help increase the number of children starting the bassoon, Howarth of London have introduced the **Mini-Bassoon PLUS+** and its slightly larger cousin the **Tenoroon**. They have been designed by a leading maker in Germany to mirror the standard instrument exactly, allowing easy upward progression. The key systems parallel that of the full-size instrument, and the fingerings are the same up to the highest register.



The layout of the thumb keys

Are they built to last?

The bodies are made from traditional maple, stained and finished in a durable modern lacquer, and the mechanism is silver-plated for durability; the instruments are then checked and finished in our own manufacturing workshops in Sussex. The down-bore is ebonite-lined like the full-size instrument, offering a refined tone. The wooden up-bores are unlined, but have been specially treated to prevent water damage. The five finger-holes are also lined with ebonite, as on the full-size bassoon.

Howarth's unique hand rest fitting is designed for small children to manage easily and to allow for the growth in players' hands. The instruments are supplied with one crook, and the case has two straps so that it can be carried over the shoulders, rucksack-style.

The Howarth Mini-Bassoon PLUS+ and Tenoroon can be played with a normal bassoon reed.

Tenoroon

What is the difference?

The Howarth Mini-Bassoon PLUS+ sounds a fifth above the full-size instrument. The Howarth Tenoroon plays a 4th above.

Each instrument fulfils a slightly different role: The **Mini-Bassoon PLUS+** is an excellent instrument to start primary school children as young as 7 or 8 years old. To reap the greatest benefit from the Mini-Bassoon PLUS+, it should not be thought of simply as small bassoon, but as a new form of wind bass instrument for small children's ensembles, thus making a wide repertoire and choice of ensembles possible.

The Tenoroon is more suitable for 9-10 year olds, who are still too small to comfortably manage the full-size instrument. Teachers are finding that the Tenoroon is a better stepping-stone to the full size instrument than the short-reach bassoon. The Tenoroon is also suitable as tenor instrument in a wind ensemble.

The favoured option for both instruments is for the player to read the bass clef, using normal bassoon fingerings. The teacher/accompanist needs to understand the transposition when arranging for ensembles including non-transposing instruments. However, with the increasing availability of relatively cheap music-writing computer software, this need not be an insurmountable barrier.

What music is available?

We have written a Tutor book with music arrangements specifically for these instruments. There is an increasing amount of material available through the internet, in particular www.minibassoon.com and www.fagottino.de. Because the fingering is like the full-size bassoon, much of the repertoire for that instrument is also appropriate.



The unique hand rest



The Mini-Bassoon PLUS+ in its case - easy to carry!