

THE STUDIO

MARIMBA Mallet Manufacturers Tier List 2018-2019 Edition

Tier	Manufacturer & Country	Prices (USD)	Some Example Models	General Comments
S Tier (\$60 USD or more) – Ultra High End Mallets				
S	ABC Mallets (NLD)	\$100-\$120	Custom Models	Independent brand specialising in custom mallets
S	Adams Percussion (NLD)	\$55-\$65	Bogdan Bacanu, Robert Van Sice	Mainstream brand with limited models
S	RESTA-JAY Percussions (FRA)	\$60-\$70	Emmanuel Sejourne, Jean Geoffroy, Momoko Kamiya	Independent brand, handmade 'premium' models
S	VIBRAWELL (FRA)	\$65-\$75	Concert Series	Independent brand, handmade 'premium' models
A Tier (\$41 - \$60 USD) – High End Mallets				
A	ELITE Mallets (ESP)	\$45-\$55	Daniel Berg, Jabi Alonso, Matthew Lau, Nuno Aroso	Independent brand, handmade 'premium' models
A	MARIMBA ONE (USA)	\$45-\$70	Double Helix, Lynn Vartan, Katarzyna Mycka, Wave Wrap	Mainstream brand, with slightly higher RRP
A	PLAYWOOD (JPN)	\$55-\$65	M-Series	Mainstream brand, very popular in Japan
A	YAMAHA (JPN)	\$55-\$65	Keiko Abe Series	Mainstream brand, popular for Keiko Abe series
B Tier (\$31 - \$40 USD) – Mid Range Mallets				
B	OGRAVITY Percussion (USA)	\$30-\$35	Jupiter Series, Mars Series	Independent brand with limited releases
B	AMY PUTNAM Mallets (USA)	\$35-\$40	MB/MR Series	Independent brand stocked through Steve Weiss
B	ARTIFACT Percussion (USA)	\$30-\$35	Classic Series, Vox Calidus Series	Independent brand focusing on 'affordable' mallets
B	DRAGONFLY Percussion (USA)	\$35-\$40	Marimba Mallet Series	Independent brand focusing on 'affordable' mallets
B	ENCORE Mallets Inc (USA)	\$35-\$45	Kana Omori, Nancy Zeltsman, Nanae Mimura, Naoko Takada	Mainstream brand focusing on 'serious' mallets
B	INNOVATIVE Percussion (USA)	\$35-\$40	Casey Cangelosi, Ludwig Albert, Mark Ford, Pius Cheung	Mainstream brand with diverse range of artists
B	MALLETECH (USA)	\$30-\$40	Eric Sammut, Leigh Stevens, Michael Burritt, Tony Miceli	Mainstream brand with lower price tag in USA
B	VIC FIRTH (USA)	\$30-\$40	Giff Howarth, Ney Rosauo, Robert Van Sice, Virtuoso	Mainstream 'big box' focusing on 'normal' mallets
C Tier (\$30 USD or less) – Entry Level Mallets				
C	BALTER Mallets (USA)	\$15-\$30	Chamber, Drew Tucker, Keiko Kotoku, Titanium, Ultimate	Mainstream budget brand, transferred to Zildjian
C	GENERIC BRANDS (ANYWHERE)	\$15-\$30	eBay/Amazon mallets, house brand mallets	No brand products, not recommended
C	PROMARK (USA)	\$25-\$30	Dame Evelyn Glennie Series	Mainstream brand known for drumsticks mainly
C	SALYERS Percussion (USA)	\$25-\$30	Doug DeMorrow Series, Earth-Tone Series	Independent brand focusing on 'affordable' mallets

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MARIMBA MALLET MANUFACTURERS TIER LIST NOTES

2018-2019 EDITION

IMPORTANT: Please watch EPISODE 77 of THE STUDIO before using this Tier List

ARE S TIER MALLETS THE BEST?

Depends on how you like your mallets!

The Tier List is purely based on average price, NOT perceived quality.

Quality is subjective in marimba mallets and everyone prefers different types of mallets.

I hope this list is helpful in finding you mallets to try that are suitable for your budget.

HOW ARE THE PRICES DETERMINED?

Prices are based on the average price of a standard marimba mallet series (in USD) from the manufacturer.

These prices do not take into account the cheapest mallet lines.

For example, Balter Mallets' Balter Basics line is not taken into consideration, but the Titanium and Ultimate lines are.

WHY ISN'T X MANUFACTURER ON THE LIST?

If you can think of any other manufacturers that should be added to the Tier List, please let me know at adam.tan@post.com!

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