





This expert guide features the top mouthpiece recommendations for 2025, carefully reviewed by professional clarinetists Julianna Evans and Zac West. Each listing includes honest pros and cons, price points for every budget, and convenient purchase links to help you find your ideal setup with confidence.

Mouthpiece	Pros	Cons
<p><u>Hite Premiere</u> (\$25-33)</p> 	<p>JE: Praised for its affordability and quality, this mouthpiece helps produce a good sound for beginning players.</p> <p>ZW: This is a budget-friendly choice that is great for producing your first sounds. It encourages proper air support and embouchure development.</p>	<p>JE: Has the tendency to produce a bright sound. I also find it is difficult to control/focus on tonguing.</p> <p>ZW: This mouthpiece tunes quite high, which helps with young players who struggle to get up to pitch but may cause problems for more developed players.</p>
<p><u>Fobes Debut</u> (\$30-44)</p> 	<p>JE: Beginner mouthpiece (slightly more expensive than the Hite Premiere, but I think this mouthpiece is easier to play on than the Hite). This mouthpiece makes it easier for students to play in the clarion and altissimo registers of the clarinet.</p>	<p>JE: Great beginner mouthpiece, but depending on the student they might “outgrow” the mouthpiece in a year or two.</p> <p>ZW: I have actually never tried this mouthpiece but would love to!</p>
<p><u>Pyne PolyCrystal</u> (\$54.99)</p> 	<p>ZW: These produce a very warm, clear sound and are easy to play</p>	<p>ZW: There is noticeable variance in feel from one mouthpiece to another. You will need to try several on trial to find the one that works for you. Highly recommend working with your private teacher to select a Pyne!</p>

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<p><u>Yamaha 4C (\$40-66)</u></p> 	<p>JE: A popular choice among educators, the Yamaha 4C offers excellent value and ease of play, making it ideal for beginners.</p> <p>ZW: Very affordable, readily available at local music shops. Can produce a decent sound.</p>	<p>JE: Hard to control during tongued passages. The cork around the mouthpiece overlaps instead of the two seams of the cork lining up next to each other. This can cause the mouthpiece to be "too bulky" when trying to insert the mouthpiece into some clarinet barrels.</p> <p>ZW: This mouthpiece features a more open facing, which means there is a larger distance between the reed and mouthpiece. This requires a lot of embouchure control and breath support to manage and may be difficult for a young student to do.</p>
<p><u>Vandoren 5RV (\$115-120)</u></p> 	<p>JE: This is a really nice mouthpiece for beginning/intermediate players. It produces a nice warm/free sound with good projection and is easy to play on. I recommend this mouthpiece for beginners who know they're going to continue with clarinet past elementary school.</p> <p>ZW: A great choice that works well for most people. Very easy to play, good tuning, and produces a nice sound. It is also high quality and should last a while. A total classic!</p>	<p>JE: Can be on the more expensive end for the "newest" beginners on clarinet.</p> <p>ZW: Not a particularly flexible mouthpiece.</p>

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<p><u>Vandoren B45 (\$115-137)</u></p> 	<p>JE: Known for its versatility, the Vandoren B45 provides a warm, centered tone suitable for various playing styles. I personally prefer the 5RV over the B45, but I like the warm sound this mouthpiece produces.</p> <p>ZW: Produces a warm, characteristic sound. Appropriate for jazz, klezmer, and classical clarinet playing.</p>	<p>JE: Can be on the more expensive end for the "newest" beginners on clarinet. I also find this model a bit difficult to control between the different registers of the clarinet.</p> <p>ZW: Like the Yamaha 4C, this mouthpiece has an open facing that can make it harder to play. This can also cause the sound to spread and become airy if you aren't used to playing a mouthpiece like this.</p>
<p><u>Vandoren M13 Lyre (\$125-140)</u></p> 	<p>JE: This is another great option for advanced players! It produces a beautiful, warm tone quality and is easy to use. I find this model a bit more resistant and harder to tongue on than the M15 model, but with practice, it should become easier to manage. I know a lot of professional clarinetists that play on this model as well.</p> <p>ZW: Another great choice that is easy to play and produces a beautiful clarinet sound. Designed by Donald Montenegro, a famous American clarinetist, who I think had one of the most beautiful clarinet tones of all time.</p>	<p>JE: It can be resistant, especially for beginner-intermediate students. I like to put my high school students on this model. Medium price point \$\$.</p> <p>ZW: Requires a heavier reed and excellent control of air and voicing.</p>

Mouthpiece	Pros	Cons
<p><u>Vandoren M15 (\$115-125)</u></p> 	<p>JE: Produces a beautiful, warm tone quality and is easy to use. I would recommend this mouthpiece for a more advanced player as it is a tad more resistant than the 5RV model. I know many professional players that play on this model as well.</p> <p>ZW: I like to think of the M15 as the “goldilocks” of mouthpieces. Not too hard to play, not too easy; not too bright sounding, not too warm - I think it has a terrific sound and is great for developing good breath support and control. Probably my favorite Vandoren mouthpiece.</p>	<p>JE: It can be more resistant. If you can, it might be a good idea to try the M15 model against the M13 Lyre. In my opinion they’re similar, but it just depends on personal preference. Medium price point \$\$.</p> <p>ZW: Requires good air support and a slightly heavier reed.</p>
<p><u>Vandoren M30 Lyre (\$115-130)</u></p> 	<p>JE: Lovely, dark sound. This mouthpiece can be good for a player that needs more resistance to their setup.</p> <p>ZW: Very flexible mouthpiece that produces an easy, warm sound. Great for players who are looking to add more depth and warmth to their clarinet sound.</p>	<p>JE: This mouthpiece can become too resistant at times and that can make it difficult to project your sound.</p> <p>ZW: Because this mouthpiece is so mellow sounding, it can sometimes be difficult to project (like during a band solo when the teacher keeps asking you to play louder!).</p>

Mouthpiece	Pros	Cons
<p><u>Vandoren B40 Lyre (\$125)</u></p> 	<p>ZW: A more open mouthpiece. Nice open, round, warm sound. Stable mouthpiece and a bit more free-blowing than the B45.</p>	<p>ZW: Requires a stronger, more developed embouchure. Not the right mouthpiece for a beginning student.</p>
<p><u>Vandoren BD5 (\$137)</u></p> 	<p>JE: Has a beautiful, darker tone quality. Appropriate for more advanced players.</p> <p>ZW: Needs a more responsive reed.</p>	<p>JE: Not for beginning/intermediate players (in my opinion). Can be resistant/difficult to produce a free-flowing sound.</p> <p>ZW: This mouthpiece has thicker rails and might require some trial and error with different reeds.</p>



Visit Zac's website at: www.zacharywestclarinet.com

Visit Julianna's website at: www.clarinetnotestudio.com

Visit Lisa's Clarinet Shop: www.lisasclarinetshop.com