

DIRECTOR'S OUTLINE FOR INTRODUCING STEP-UP INSTRUMENTS TO THE BAND CLASS

Differences between beginner and step-up instruments:

- **Bigger Sound**
Beginner instruments have small bores that give shallow, small sounds.
Better instruments have larger bores for bigger, fuller sounds

- **Better Intonation**
Beginning instruments aren't perfectly in tune – doesn't matter at first.
Better quality instruments are made with greater precision

- **Tone Quality**
Beginner instruments are made of less expensive materials
Better quality instruments are made of materials that give the best tone.
(Plastic clarinets v. wood clarinets, nickel flutes/silver flutes, etc.)

- **Features**
Beginner instruments don't have extra features
Better quality instruments have features that help the player play better in tune, faster, with more control, and with extended range.
(Silver Trumpets, open-hole flutes, extra keys on saxophones, etc.)

Benefits of better instruments to the player:

- Better intonation
- Improved tone quality
- Larger sound
- Better control of sound
- Extended range
- Renewed excitement for student

Benefits of better instruments to the band:

- A bigger, fuller or more mature sound
- Tonal blend
- Intonation across each section is improved
- Students practice more
- Increased Commitment from student and parent

(In your talk to students and to parents avoid the word "professional". Even though an instrument may be the same model as many professionals use, parents are quick to point out that their child is not a professional and so buying a professional instrument would obviously be "going overboard".)