



Electric Piano and Keyboard Buying Guide Quick Reference Handout

Discover the perfect electric piano or keyboard to suit your musical needs and elevate your playing experience with our comprehensive buying guide.

[Scan the QR Code to read the full buying guide](#)

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1. Difference between electric keyboards and digital pianos

Electric keyboards: Generally lightweight and portable, these instruments offer a variety of sounds and features, making them ideal for beginners and those interested in exploring different musical genres. They often include built-in learning tools and are more affordable.

Digital pianos: Designed to emulate acoustic pianos with weighted keys and high-quality piano sounds, digital pianos are perfect for those focused on piano-centric music and skill development. They are typically less portable but provide a more authentic playing experience.

2. Types of electric keyboards

Portable keyboards: Lightweight with built-in speakers and diverse sound options, ideal for beginners and musicians on the go.

Digital pianos: Heavier and stationary, with weighted keys and realistic piano sounds, suitable for both practice and performance.

Synthesizers and MIDI controllers: Used for music production and sound design, these instruments offer extensive customization and integration with other digital music tools.

3. Key features of consider

Touch sensitivity: Allows expressive control over the volume and tone of the music based on how hard or soft the keys are pressed.

Keyboard action: Includes weighted, semi-weighted, and unweighted actions that affect the feel of the keys, mimicking acoustic pianos or offering lighter touch responses.

Samples and polyphony: Higher quality samples and polyphony provide richer, more realistic sounds, especially important for complex compositions.

Connections: MIDI, USB, and audio outputs enable integration with computers and recording



equipment, enhancing versatility.

Sound quality: Influenced by digital sampling and speaker systems, crucial for authentic and high-quality performance.

Portability: Essential for those who need to transport their instrument frequently, with options ranging from lightweight keyboards to more robust digital pianos.

4. Choosing the right keyboard for your level

Beginners: Opt for portable keyboards with touch sensitivity and instructional features. Digital pianos with weighted keys offer a more realistic experience for those committed to learning piano.

Intermediate players: Consider digital pianos for a more authentic feel or portable keyboards with additional features like built-in audio interfaces for versatility.

Advanced players: Stage pianos provide professional-quality sounds and robust connectivity for live performances. Synthesizers and MIDI controllers are ideal for those involved in music production.

5. Electric keyboard accessories

Keyboard stand: Ensures proper posture and stability, with adjustable options for different heights and keyboard sizes.

Bench: A comfortable, height-adjustable bench helps maintain proper posture and reduce fatigue during long practice sessions.

Pedals: Enhance expressiveness with sustain, soft, or expression pedals to simulate acoustic piano dynamics.

Headphones: For private practice and detailed audio monitoring, high-quality headphones are essential.

Keyboard cases and bags: Protect your instrument during transport and storage, with options ranging from soft cases to hard cases for maximum protection.

Music stand: Holds sheet music or digital devices securely, beneficial for reading music or tutorials.

Power adapter: Ensure compatibility and keep a spare for convenience and reliability.

Explore a wide range of electric keyboards and pianos at Best Buy to find the perfect model for your needs. Happy music-making!