

OFF-BRAND MUSICAL INSTRUMENT ALERT

Due to the increased production and distribution of instruments manufactured overseas (primarily in China or India) the South Dakota Bandmasters found the need to inform and educate beginning band students and their parents of the sub-par construction and performance of inexpensive, off-brand and/or private label band instruments. Hopefully, with the aid of this letter, band directors can prevent parents from making an unwise investment for their beginning band student.

Quality Horns

The SD Bandmasters organization strongly encourages the purchase of student-line instruments at reputable or local music stores. Reputable music stores continue to deal quality instruments and will stand behind their products with warranties. Repairs on quality instruments are done easily at local or reputable music stores and many times fall under the warranty provided when a new instrument is bought.

Off-Brand Instruments

The “off-brand” instruments are most commonly found at “box” or discount stores, various internet websites or internet auctions. In some instances, the instruments have a faulty design or are constructed with sub-standard materials. These instruments many times come with little or no warranty and frequently can’t be returned because the company or party that the instrument was bought from no longer exists. Repairs on some imported instruments can’t (and won’t) be done because of the faulty design or sub-standard materials that they are made from and replacement parts for these instruments don’t exist.

The SD Bandmasters want to make playing a musical instrument a positive experience for students and a sound investment for parent/guardians. There are two key ingredients to making this happen. First, parents need to consult with their local band director before the purchase of an instrument and second, instrument purchases should be made at local or reputable music stores. Hopefully by doing so, the experience will turn into an enjoyable activity that will last a lifetime.