



YAMAHA PIANOS

pre-loved

Every Yamaha upright and grand you are likely to meet as a Japanese import, from 1970 to today: what each model is, what changed from one to the next, and which one suits your home.

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WHY JAPAN *and why Yamaha*

Most of the pianos in our showroom were made in Japan and spent years in Japanese homes before they came to us.

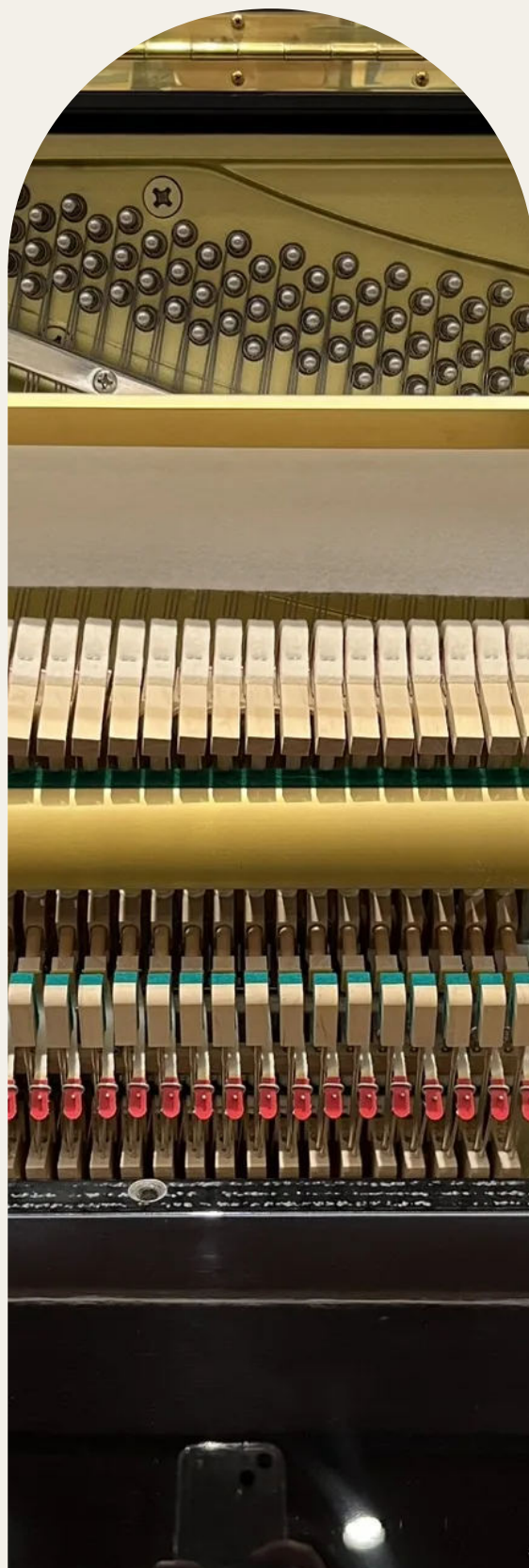
Japan fell in love with the piano in the 1970s and 1980s. By the late 1990s, a study of the industry estimated, Japanese homes owned six to seven million of them. Many were bought for children's lessons and kept in family living rooms for decades. Condition still varies from one piano to the next, which is why we check every one.

I choose each piano in Japan myself, have it photographed there before it ships, and bring it straight to Melbourne, where we check it again in our Mount Waverley workshop before it goes on the showroom floor. With no chain of dealers in between, you pay for the piano, not the markup.

This guide is what I would tell you across the showroom: which Yamaha is which, what changed from one model to the next, and how to choose the right one for the person who will play it and the room it will live in. Come and play any of them. That is still the best test there is.

Eric Kuang

Founder, Signature Pianos · 0479 128 955 · eric@signaturepianos.com.au



FOUR QUESTIONS

before you look

Most people choose a piano by how it looks. The better way is to answer four questions first. The right model usually falls out of the answers.

1 · WHO WILL PLAY IT?

A BEGINNER, A STUDENT, OR YOU

A child starting lessons needs an instrument that holds its tuning and has an even, responsive touch. A well-kept 121 cm upright does that. A student working through the grades, or an adult coming back to the piano, will hear and feel the extra string length and soundboard of a 131 cm upright. Serious students and teachers often end up at a grand.

2 · WHERE WILL IT LIVE?

THE ROOM DECIDES THE SIZE

An upright wants an inside wall, away from windows, heaters and air-conditioning vents. It needs about 1.6 m of wall and room in front for the stool. A grand needs its full length plus about 60 cm behind the keys for the stool, and sounds best in a room larger than it is. Measure doorways and stairs as well as the room.

3 · DOES IT NEED TO BE QUIET?

NEIGHBOURS, BABIES, LATE PRACTICE

Almost every Japanese upright has a middle pedal that drops a strip of felt in front of the strings and makes the piano much quieter. If that is not quiet enough, a Yamaha Silent piano lets you play through headphones and switch back to the acoustic sound whenever you like. See page 21.

4 · WHAT IS THE BUDGET?

AGE, SIZE AND CONDITION

Three things set the price of a pre-loved Yamaha: the era it was built in, its size, and the condition it is in today. Two pianos of the same model can be far apart. Page 29 gives the ranges we see, so you can match a model to what you want to spend before you fall for one.

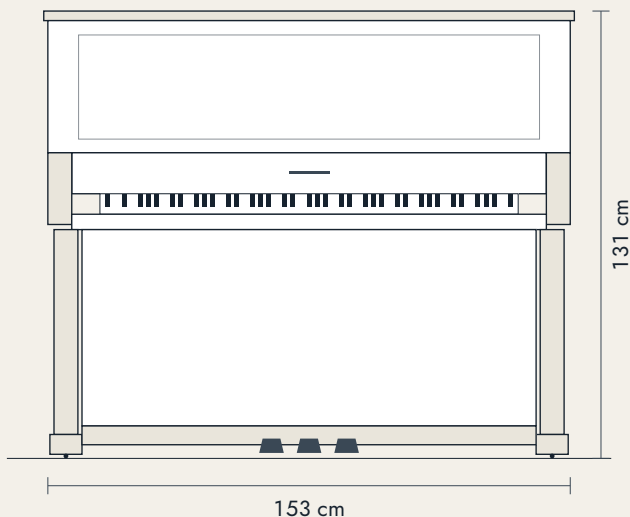
A QUICK MATCH

IF THIS IS YOU	START WITH	PAGES
A child starting lessons, or a smaller room	A 121 cm upright: U1A, U10A, U100, YU11, YUS1	11, 19
A student working through the grades	A 131 cm upright: U3, U30A, UX3, YU33, YUS3	12, 19
An advanced student or teacher	A top upright (UX50A, YU50, YUS5) or a grand (G3, C3)	15, 25
An apartment, or practice late at night	A Silent upright: YU11 or YU33 with SG2 or SH2, YUS with SH	21
A first grand, in a room about 4 m square	GB1K, GC1, G1, C1	28

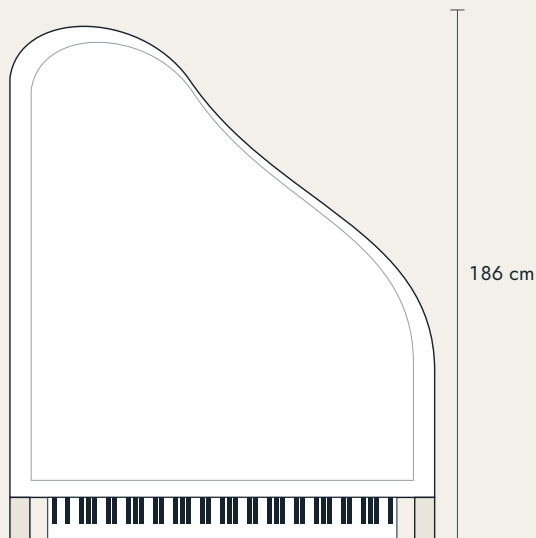
UPRIGHT OR GRAND

what changes

Both have 88 keys, a cast-iron frame, steel strings and a spruce soundboard. The difference is which way everything faces, and what that does to the touch, the sound and the space it takes.



An upright, front view. Strings run vertically behind the keys, so the piano stands against a wall.



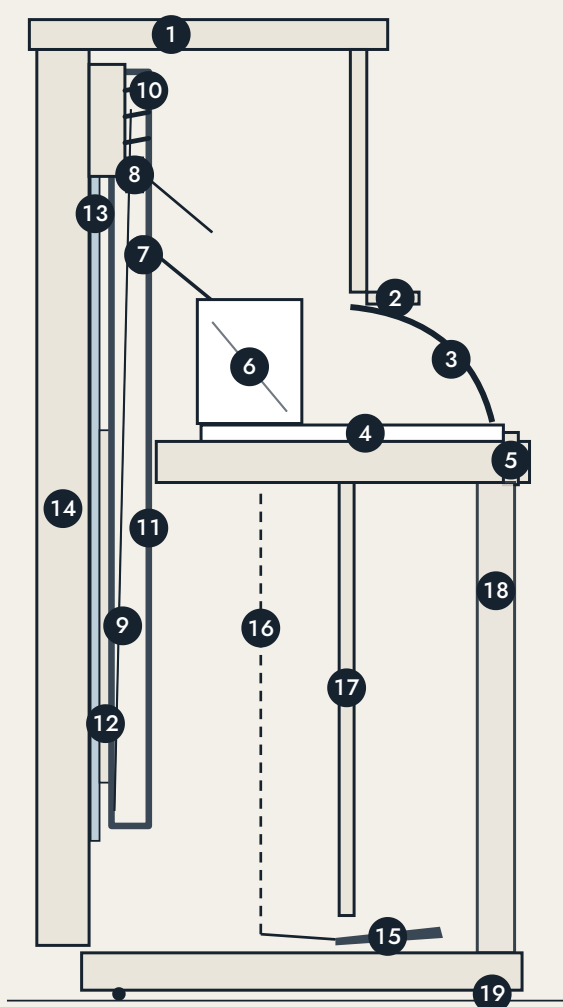
A grand from above. Strings run away from the player, so the piano needs floor space rather than wall.

	UPRIGHT	GRAND
Strings and soundboard	Vertical, facing the wall	Horizontal, facing the ceiling, with the lid to direct the sound
How the hammers return	A spring pulls each hammer back from the string	Gravity and a repetition lever reset the hammer, so a note can be repeated faster
Space	About 150–156 cm of wall, 61–66 cm deep	About 150 cm wide and 150–230 cm long, plus room to sit
Quiet options	Muffler pedal on most Japanese models; Silent systems	A hand-operated practice muffler on many Japanese grands; Silent systems on some
Who it suits	Most homes, beginners through to advanced students	Advanced students, teachers, performers, and rooms that can give it space

INSIDE AN UPRIGHT

part by part

Knowing the names helps when you compare models, and when a technician tells you what a piano needs.



An upright seen from the side, front to the right. The hammers are drawn in Hammer Felt, the colour our brand takes its accent from.

- 1 Top lid · lifts to open up the sound
- 2 Music desk · holds the score
- 3 Fallboard · the key cover, with the maker's name
- 4 Keys · 88 levers, 52 white and 36 black
- 5 Key slip · the rail in front of the keys
- 6 Action · the mechanism that turns a key press into a hammer blow, dozens of small parts for every note
- 7 Hammers · wooden cores covered in pressed wool felt
- 8 Dampers · felt pads that stop each string when you let go
- 9 Strings · about 220 of them, one to three per note
- 10 Tuning pins and pin block · the pins a tuner turns, held in layers of hardwood
- 11 Iron frame · cast iron that holds the combined pull of the strings, about 18 to 20 tonnes
- 12 Bridges · carry each string's vibration into the soundboard
- 13 Soundboard · a thin spruce panel that turns vibration into sound
- 14 Back posts · the timber frame behind it all; Yamaha's X models brace it in an X
- 15 Pedals · three on almost every Yamaha upright
- 16 Pedal rods · carry each pedal up to the action
- 17 Lower panel · lifts off for the tuner
- 18 Legs and toe blocks · carry the front of the piano
- 19 Castors · for moving it across a room, not between rooms

THREE PEDALS

three jobs

Every Yamaha upright in this guide has three pedals. The right and left ones are always the same. The middle one is the one to ask about.



RIGHT

SUSTAIN

Also called the damper pedal. It lifts every damper off the strings, so notes keep ringing after you let go of the keys. It is the pedal you will use most.

LEFT

SOFT

On an upright it moves all the hammers closer to the strings, so they strike with less speed and the sound is softer. On a grand it shifts the whole action sideways instead.

MIDDLE, ON MOST MODELS

MUFFLER

Also called the practice pedal. It lowers a strip of felt between the hammers and the strings and makes the piano much quieter. Most Japanese uprights have it, and it can be locked on for evening practice.

MIDDLE, ON SOME MODELS

SOSTENUTO

Holds up the dampers of only the notes you are playing when you press it, so those notes ring on while the rest of the piano plays normally. Most Yamaha grands have one, though many Japanese grands from the 1970s to the mid-1980s have only two pedals. Some premium uprights have one too (marked in the model pages).

THE NAME *and the number*

Every Yamaha has its model name and serial number stamped on the gold iron frame, at the upper right, where you can see them with the top lid open. Between them they tell you what the piano is and roughly when it was made.

READING THE MODEL NAME

U	The upright line.
1·2·3·5	Size and grade: 1 is 121 cm, 2 is 127 cm, 3 is 131 cm, and 5 is the top 131 cm model.
FGHMA	The generation, not the grade. A U1H is not better than a U1M, just older. Yamaha used A twice: in the 1950s, and from 1982 to 1987.
10·100	Later generations: 10, 30 and 50 from 1987 to 1994, then 100, 300 and 500 until 1997.
BlWnTkMhC	The finish: black, walnut, teak, and Chippendale cabinets (C) in mahogany, walnut or birch.
X	An X-type back post, on the higher-grade UX models (page 13).
YUAYUXYUS	X-series models from 1978 to 1982.
YU·YUS1	Japanese-market names from 1997, and the higher-grade YUS from 2006.
J·Q	Codes on new pianos in Australian shops: J for Indonesian-built, Q for the Japan-built export U1 and U3.
SSXSGSH	A Silent piano. See page 21.

SERIAL NUMBER TO YEAR

YEAR	FIRST SERIAL	YEAR	FIRST SERIAL
1970	c. 1,000,000	1999	5,810,000
1972	1,340,000	2000	5,860,000
1974	1,740,000	2001	5,920,000
1976	2,150,000	2002	5,970,000
1978	2,570,000	2003	6,020,000
1980	3,030,000	2004	6,060,000
1982	3,480,000	2005	6,100,000
1984	3,890,000	2006	6,150,000
1986	4,210,000	2008	6,220,000
1988	4,560,000	2010	6,280,000
1990	4,820,000	2012	6,340,000
1992	5,080,000	2014	6,380,000
1994	5,300,000	2016	6,420,000
1996	5,460,000	2018	6,460,000
1997	5,520,000	2020	6,500,000
1998	5,590,000	2025	6,600,000

The first serial number of each year for Japan-built Yamaha pianos, uprights and grands together, from Yamaha Japan. Yamaha notes the year boundaries can shift a little, so read the result as "about". The 1970 figure is estimated from Yamaha's model records. Example: serial 3,500,000 was made in about 1982.

FIFTY YEARS

at a glance

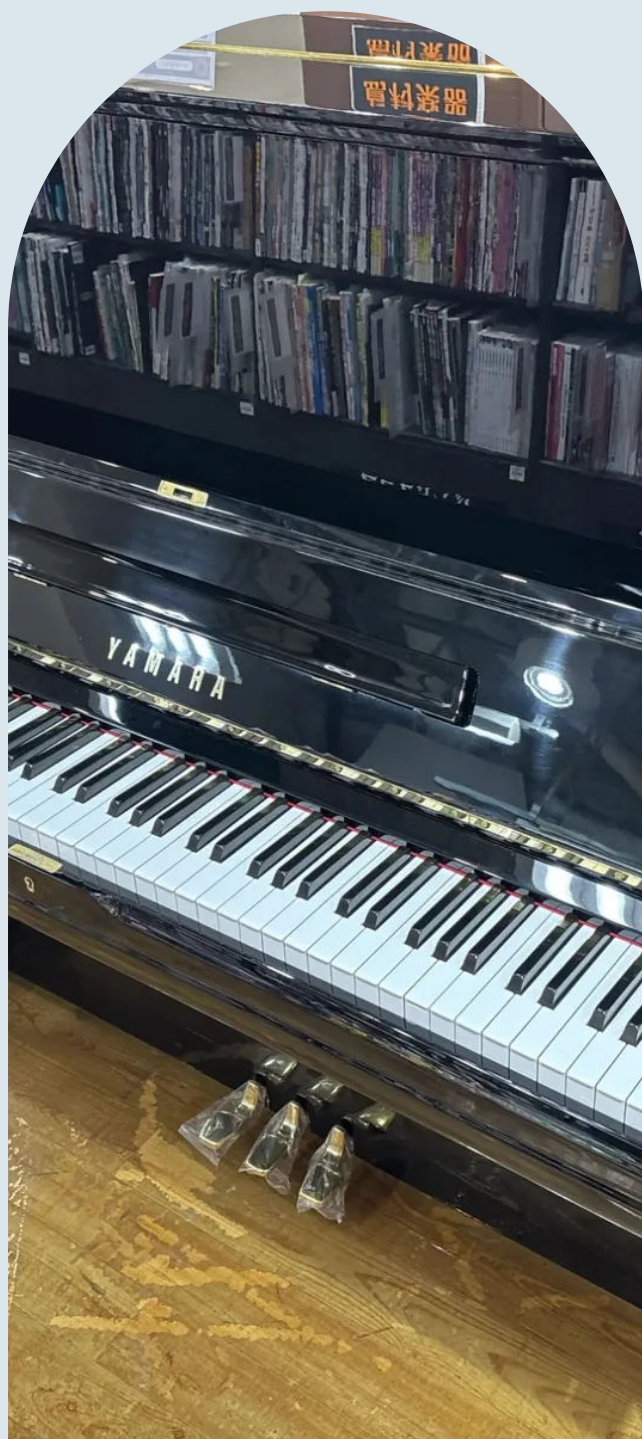
Every model in the U, UX, YU and YUS families, placed by the months Yamaha built it. Read down a lane to follow one size through the decades.

	121 CM	131 CM	121 CM, HIGHER	131 CM, HIGHER	TOP OF RANGE
1970	U1F U1G	U3F U3G			
1975	U1H 1972–1980	U3H 1972–1980		UX 1975–1980	
1980					YUA 1978–1982
	U1M	U3M	YUS	YUX	
1985	U1A 1982–1987	U3A 1982–1987	UX1 1982–1988	UX3 1982–1988	UX5 1982–1988
	U10Bl	U30Bl	UX10Bl	UX30Bl	UX50Bl
1990	U10A 1989–1994	U30A 1989–1994	UX10A 1990–1994	UX30A 1990–1994	UX50A 1990–1994
1995	U100 1994–1997	U300 1994–1997	UX100 1994–1997	UX300 1994–1997	UX500 1994–1997
2000	YU1 1997–2001	YU3 1997–2001	August 1997: Japanese models renamed YU		YU5 1997–2001
2005	YU10 2001–2006	YU30 2001–2006			YU50 2001–2006
2010	YU11 2006–today	YU33 2006–today	YUS1 2006–today	YUS3 2006–today	YUS5 2006–today
2015					
2020					
2025					

Shaded: the YU and YUS names used in Japan from August 1997. Lanes group models by size. The YU10 and YU30 were higher-grade models: in 2006 their place passed to the YUS1 and YUS3, while the YU11 and YU33 took the standard line. Not shown: the 127 cm U2 (1972–1987) and UX2 (1983–1988), and the U1E and U3E, which ended in March 1970. Source: Yamaha Japan's model list.

THE CLASSIC YAMAHA *made for Japan*

The pianos that made Yamaha's name: the U1 and U3 through their long run of generations, and the X-series models that sat above them. Built in Japan for Japanese homes, they are among the Yamahas most often imported to Australia today.



121 CM

THE U1

U1F to U100. The compact Yamaha.

131 CM

THE U3

U3F to U300. The one most people picture.

121 AND 131 CM

THE X SERIES

UX, UX1, UX3 and their successors: a higher grade with an X-braced back.

131 CM

TOP OF THE RANGE

UX5 to UX500, and the YUA before them: agraffes, a grand-style music desk and, from the UX5, a sostenuto pedal.

WHY THE DIMENSIONS DIFFER

Listings often quote today's U1 and U3 figures (153 cm wide, 228 and 246 kg) for older pianos. The older U1s are narrower and lighter (about 150 cm wide, 210–220 kg); the U3H, U3M and U3A are about 154 cm wide and 240–248 kg. The figures on these pages are for the model itself.

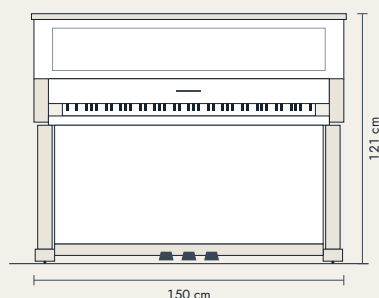
THE U1

the compact classic

The 121 cm Yamaha, made in one generation after another until Yamaha renamed it the YU1 for Japan in 1997. Every model here has three pedals; from the U1H on, the middle one is a muffler.

1970–1997 BUILT	121 HEIGHT, CM	150 WIDTH, CM	210–220 WEIGHT, KG
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MODEL	BUILT	SERIALS, ABOUT	WHAT TO KNOW
U1F	Mar 1970 – Mar 1971	1.00 – 1.20 million	Made in black, Queensland walnut or sapele.
U1G	Mar 1971 – May 1972	1.20 – 1.40 million	A short generation of about a year.
U1H	May 1972 – Sep 1980	1.40 – 3.20 million	The longest-running U1, made for eight years. Early ones came in black, walnut or sapele; black only from about serial 2,000,000.
U1M	Sep 1980 – Dec 1982	3.20 – 3.65 million	A two-year generation between the U1H and the U1A.
U1A	Dec 1982 – Mar 1987	3.65 – 4.43 million	A long-seller, in Yamaha's own words.
U10Bl	Apr 1987 – Sep 1989	4.43 – 4.80 million	The new naming: 10 for the model, Bl for black. Also made in walnut (U10Wn), teak (U10Tk) and Chippendale cabinets.
U10A	Oct 1989 – Mar 1994	4.80 – 5.30 million	Yamaha's "standard 121 cm model" of its day. Wood-grain versions were renamed W1AWn and W1ABiC.
U100	Mar 1994 – Aug 1997	5.32 – 5.55 million	The last U1 made for Japan. A factory Silent version, the U100SX, was made from 1995.



About 121 × 150 × 61 cm.

WHO IT SUITS

Beginners, home practice, and any room where 121 cm fits better than 131. A well-kept U1 from the 1980s or 1990s is a sensible first real piano for a child who has started lessons.

GOOD TO KNOW

The U1H and U1A are the ones most often seen. A U1H is at least 46 years old now, so its condition matters more than its model letter. Ask what has been replaced.

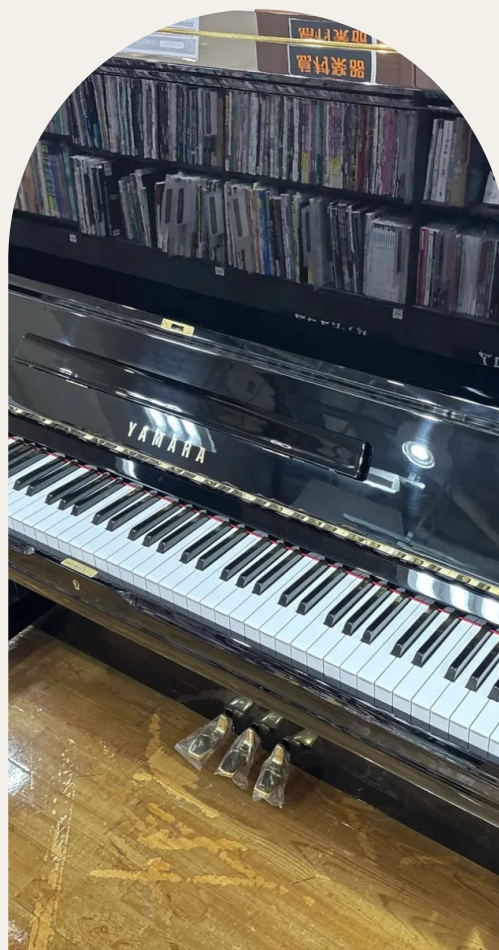
THE U3

the one everyone knows

The 131 cm U3 is the piano most people picture when they hear "Yamaha upright". The extra ten centimetres buy longer bass strings and a larger soundboard, and with them a fuller bass.

1970–1997 BUILT	131 HEIGHT, CM	153–154 WIDTH, CM	235–248 WEIGHT, KG
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MODEL	BUILT	SERIALS, ABOUT	WHAT TO KNOW
U3F	Mar 1970 – Mar 1971	1.00 – 1.20 m	The start of the 1970s.
U3G	Mar 1971 – Apr 1972	1.20 – 1.40 m	A one-year generation.
U3H	Apr 1972 – Sep 1980	1.40 – 3.20 m	The longest-running U3. About 131 × 154 × 65 cm and 248 kg.
U3M	Sep 1980 – Dec 1982	3.20 – 3.65 m	Hammers made for the model, underfelted.
U3A	Dec 1982 – Feb 1987	3.65 – 4.43 m	About 242 kg.
U30BI	Apr 1987 – Sep 1989	4.43 – 4.75 m	The new naming, and a slightly narrower cabinet at 153 cm. Also in walnut, sapele, rosewood and Chippendale cabinets.
U30A	Oct 1989 – Mar 1994	4.75 – 5.30 m	All 88 hammers underfelted. The first factory Silent U3, the U30AS, from late 1993.
U300	Mar 1994 – Aug 1997	5.32 – 5.55 m	The last U3 made for Japan, with a slightly larger music desk. Silent versions U300S and U300SX.



A U3H photographed in Japan before import.

WHO IT SUITS

From the first lesson to the final grades. If the room allows 131 cm and the budget allows a U3, it is the one to try first.

GOOD TO KNOW

From the U3H on, the middle pedal is a muffler. In between the U1 and U3, Yamaha also made a 127 cm U2 (U2H, U2M and U2A, 1972 to 1987). "m" in the serial column means millions.

THE X SERIES

a braced back

From 1975 Yamaha built a higher grade alongside the U models. Behind the soundboard, the timber back posts are arranged in an X instead of running straight up and down. The X models also gained a tone escape, and later agraffes and a large grand-style music desk.

MODEL	BUILT	WHAT TO KNOW
UX	May 1975 – Sep 1980	The first X back post. About 250 kg.
YUX	Sep 1980 – Dec 1982	The UX's successor, with a tone escape in the upper front panel and underfelted hammers.
UX3	Dec 1982 – Mar 1988	Tone escape through slits either side of the upper front panel.
UX30Bl	Apr 1988 – Mar 1990	Gains the large grand-style music desk, with a tone escape behind it.
UX30A	Apr 1990 – Mar 1994	Adds agraffes in the tenor and bass, an aliquot (extra resonating strings) in the treble, an overhanging bass bridge and walnut hammer mouldings. About 245 kg.
UX300	Mar 1994 – Aug 1997	Agraffes, large music desk with tone escape, mahogany trim. The last 131 cm X model. About 250 kg.



A UX30A photographed in Japan before import.

WHO IT SUITS

Players who want more resonance, and more of the sound coming straight towards them, than a U3 of the same years. All are 131 × 153–154 × 65 cm.

GOOD TO KNOW

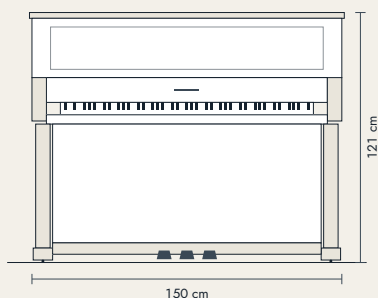
The UX3 and UX300 have the muffler pedal in the middle, and the UX30A almost certainly does too. Japanese dealers often replace the bass strings on X models from about 1978 to 1983 when they recondition them, so ask whether that has been done.

THE COMPACT X

higher grade, 121 cm

The X-series ideas in the 121 cm size: the braced back, a tone escape, and from 1990 the large grand-style music desk, unusual on a piano this size.

MODEL	BUILT	SIZE AND WEIGHT	WHAT TO KNOW
YUS	Sep 1980 – Dec 1982	121 × 150 × 61 cm · 218 kg	The first 121 cm X model, with a tone escape and underfelted hammers. Not related to the YUS1 of 2006.
UX1	Dec 1982 – Mar 1988	121 × 150 × 61 cm · 219 kg	Slit tone escape, underfelted hammers. Yamaha notes it was popular with intermediate and advanced players.
UX10Bl	Apr 1988 – Mar 1990	121 × 151 × 62 cm · about 225 kg	Tone escape.
UX10A	Apr 1990 – Mar 1994	121 × 151 × 62 cm · about 230 kg	The large grand-style music desk arrives on the 121 cm size.
UX100	Mar 1994 – Aug 1997	121 × 151 × 62 cm · about 232 kg	Large music desk with tone escape and mahogany-effect trim. The last 121 cm X model.



The 121 cm X models share the U1's height.

WHO IT SUITS

A student or adult who wants the higher grade but has a room, or a budget, for 121 cm. Heard side by side with a U1 of the same year, the difference is in the sound more than the size.

GOOD TO KNOW

A 127 cm UX2 was also made, from 1983 to 1988. Wood-grain versions include the UX10Wn and WX1AWn. A listing that says just "YUS" is this 1980–1982 model, not a modern YUS1.

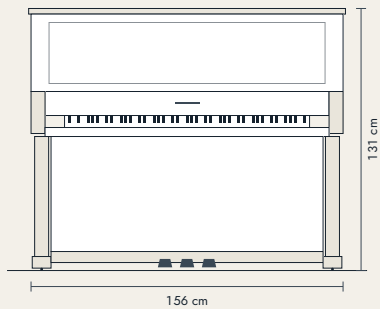
TOP OF THE RANGE

grand ideas

The best upright Yamaha made in each generation, borrowing from its grands: agraffes in the tenor and bass, a large music desk that lets the sound out and, from the UX5, a sostenuto pedal in the middle, with the muffler moved to a hand lever.

1978–1997	131	153–156	245–270
BUILT	HEIGHT, CM	WIDTH, CM	WEIGHT, KG

MODEL	BUILT	WHAT TO KNOW
YUA	Sep 1978 – Dec 1982	The top upright of its time: X back post, agraffes, an aliquot in the treble, an overhanging bass bridge and a large music desk with tone escape. About 247 kg. Muffler on a hand lever. Sources disagree on the middle pedal (sostenuto, or a bass-only sustain), so try it.
UX5	Dec 1982 – Mar 1988	Sostenuto middle pedal, agraffes in the tenor and bass, and a music desk that slides forward to open a tone escape. About 249 kg.
UX50Bl	Apr 1988 – Mar 1990	The same features with the large music desk and tone escape.
UX50A	Apr 1990 – Mar 1994	A larger cabinet, 156 × 66 cm, about 265 kg. The top model of its generation.
UX500	Mar 1994 – Aug 1997	The last of the line, with mahogany side panels. About 270 kg. Followed in 1997 by the YU5 (page 17).



The UX50A at about 131 × 156 × 66 cm.

WHO IT SUITS

Advanced students and teachers who want grand-piano features in an upright, and repertoire that uses the sostenuto pedal.

GOOD TO KNOW

Because the middle pedal is a sostenuto, the practice muffler is a hand lever rather than a pedal. Ask to be shown how it works. Wood-grain versions include the UX50WnC and UX500WnC.

THE MODERN YAMAHA

a new name

In August 1997 Yamaha stopped selling the U1 and U3 in Japan and gave its Japanese uprights new names. Outside Japan, Yamaha kept selling Japan-built U1 and U3 export models. So a modern Yamaha that comes to us from Japan is almost always a YU or a YUS.



1997 TO 2001

YU1 · YU3 · YU5

The first YU models. They take over from the U100, the U300 and the X series.

2001 TO 2006

YU10 · YU30 · YU50

A tone escape on every model, and more finishes, including walnut and Chippendale cabinets.

2006 TO TODAY

YU11 · YU33

The Japanese-market U1 and U3, still made at Yamaha's Kakegawa factory.

2006 TO TODAY

YUS1 · YUS3 · YUS5

The higher grade, sold in Japan and around the world, including new in Australia.

WHAT ABOUT THE U1Q AND U3Q?

You will see these names in Australian shops selling new pianos. They are distributors' stock codes for the U1 and U3 made in Japan for export (the "Q" versions), as against the Indonesian-made U1J. Yamaha's own pages simply call them the U1 and U3. The Japanese-market equivalents are the YU11 and YU33.

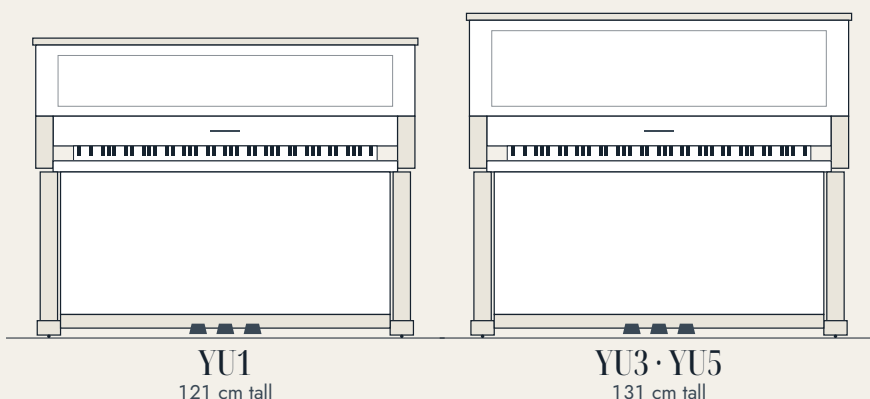
YU1 · YU3 · YU5

the first YU

The YU1 and YU3 took over from the U100 and U300 in 1997. The YU5 took the place at the top of the range that the X-series uprights had held until that year.

1997–2001	121 · 131	153	228–241
BUILT	HEIGHT, CM	WIDTH, CM	WEIGHT, KG

MODEL	BUILT	SIZE	WHAT SETS IT APART
YU1	Aug 1997 – Jul 2001	121 cm · 228 kg	The 121 cm model, following the U100. Underfelted hammers (a second layer of felt under the outer one) throughout.
YU3	Sep 1997 – Jul 2001	131 cm · 235 kg	The 131 cm model. Followed by the YU30 in 2001, and in 2006 by two models: the YU33 and the higher-grade YUS3.
YU5	Aug 1997 – Jul 2001	131 cm · 241 kg	The top model. Agraffes (brass string guides, as on a grand) in the bass and middle, grand-type hammer felt, and a pull-out music desk that opens a path for the sound.



The two heights at one scale. The extra 10 cm buys longer bass strings and a larger soundboard.

WHO IT SUITS

Anyone who wants a Japan-made Yamaha from the late 1990s with the modern YU touch. The YU1 suits a beginner or a small room; the YU3 and YU5 give a student the longer strings and bigger soundboard of a 131 cm piano.

GOOD TO KNOW

All three have the muffler pedal in the middle. Silent versions exist: YU1S and YU3S (1997–1999, the first generation) and YU1SZ, YU3SZ and YU5SZ (1999–2001). Serial numbers run from about 5,550,000 to 5,950,000.

YU10 · YU30 · YU50

the tone-escape years

From August 2001 to September 2006. The YU10 and YU30 have a tone escape (an opening in the cabinet that lets more sound out towards the player) and a soft-landing fallboard, and Japanese dealers rank all three alongside today's higher-grade YUS.

MODEL	SIZE	WEIGHT	WHAT SETS IT APART
YU10	121 × 152 × 61 cm	234 kg	Underfelted hammers, tone escape, soft-landing fallboard. The 121 cm model, and the one with the most versions (below).
YU30	131 × 152 × 65 cm	242 kg	The 131 cm model, with the same features. Limited editions: YU30LE (2002), YU30BM (2002–04) and YU30CE (2004–05), with mahogany trim or upgraded keytops.
YU50	131 × 152 × 65 cm	249 kg	The top grade: white keytops in Yamaha's "New Ivory 2", natural-wood black keys, agraffes in the middle and bass, grand-type hammers and a large music desk. The YUS5's predecessor. Its middle pedal is a muffler, not a sostenuto.

EVERY YU10, FROM YAMAHA'S OWN LIST

NAME	BUILT	WHAT IT IS
YU10	Aug 2001 – Sep 2006	Polished black
YU10Wn	Aug 2001 – Sep 2006	American walnut
YU10WnC	Aug 2001 – Jul 2006	Walnut in a Chippendale cabinet, with curved (cabriole) legs
YU10MhC	Aug 2001 – Sep 2006	Mahogany in a Chippendale cabinet
YU10SB	Aug 2001 – Sep 2006	Factory Silent piano (SB generation), about 238 kg. Also made as YU10Wn-SB and YU10WnC-SB.
YU10SEB	Aug 2001 – Sep 2006	"Silent Ensemble": Silent, plus recording and playback. Also in walnut, mahogany, bright ivory and white. Recalled, see below.

WHO IT SUITS

Families who want the extra features of a higher-grade Yamaha without the price of a recent YUS. The YU10 in walnut or a Chippendale cabinet also suits a room where the piano is part of the furniture.

RECALL · SILENT ENSEMBLE

In 2009 Yamaha recalled its Silent Ensemble uprights (YU10SEB, YU30SEB, YU50SEB, YUS1–5SEB and related models) with serial numbers 6,095,681 to 6,264,935, because a part in the soft-pedal control could smoke or catch fire. Yamaha replaced the part free. On any SEB piano, check the serial and ask whether the part has been replaced.

YU11 · YU33

the modern U1 and U3

Yamaha Japan describes the YU11 as the 121 cm model of its long-established U series. Put simply, the YU11 and YU33 are the Japanese-market U1 and U3, built at Kakegawa from September 2006 and still in production.

2006— BUILT	121 · 131 HEIGHT, CM	153 WIDTH, CM	228 · 246 WEIGHT, KG
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A YU33 photographed in Japan before import.

MODEL	SIZE	WHAT SETS IT APART
YU11	121 cm · 228 kg	Underfelted hammers, soft-landing fallboard, muffler pedal.
YU33	131 cm · 246 kg	The same size and weight as the export U3. Five back posts, underfelted hammers with two kinds of felt in the treble, nickel-plated tuning pins and a larger music desk.
YU11W YU33W	2006 — 2010	Wood-grain (walnut) versions.

WHO IT SUITS

The YU33 is the modern equivalent of the piano Yamaha is best known for, and a sound choice for any student from the first lesson to the final grades. The YU11 does the same job where the room or the budget calls for 121 cm.

GOOD TO KNOW

No tone escape, lid prop or fallboard lock: those are the extras you pay for in a YUS. Yamaha itself notes that thick music books can be hard to rest on the YU11's music desk. Silent versions: SD (2006–2012), SG (2008–2012), SG2 (2013–2018), SH2 (2018–2021) and today's SH3.

YUS1 · YUS3 · YUS5

the higher grade

In 2006 the YUS took the YU10, YU30 and YU50's place at the top of the range. They are still made today, in Japan and for export, and are sold new in Australia.

2006— BUILT	121 · 131 HEIGHT, CM	152 WIDTH, CM	229—253 WEIGHT, KG
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MODEL	SIZE	MIDDLE PEDAL	WHAT SETS IT APART
YUS1	121 × 152 × 62 cm · 229 kg	Muffler	Tone escape at the lower front panel and behind the fallboard, lid prop, fallboard lock, soft-landing fallboard.
YUS3	131 × 152 × 65 cm · 247 kg	Muffler	The same features at 131 cm.
YUS5	131 × 152 × 65 cm · 253 kg	Sostenuto	Ivorite white keytops and natural-wood black keys. The music desk opens forward, with tone escapes in the upper and lower front panels.

WHAT THE EXTRA GRADE BUYS

Yamaha has skilled technicians voice each YUS. For the current YUS1 and YUS3 it describes the hammer felt and strings as equivalent to those of its CFX concert grand. The exact materials have changed since 2006, so ask about the year of the piano in front of you.

WHO IT SUITS

Advanced students, teachers and adults who want the most from an upright before moving to a grand. The YUS5's sostenuto pedal matters for exam and recital repertoire that asks for it.

A NAME TO WATCH

An unrelated Yamaha called simply "YUS" was built from 1980 to 1982, part of the X series (page 14). A listing that says "YUS" without a 1, 3 or 5 is that older piano.



A YUS5 in American walnut, photographed in Japan before import. Finishes include polished black, walnut (Wn) and mahogany Chippendale (MhC).

SILENT PIANOS

play at midnight

Since 1993 Yamaha has made acoustic pianos that can go quiet. Press the middle pedal (a lever on some models) and a rail stops the hammers just short of the strings, sensors read every key, and you hear a sampled Yamaha grand through headphones. Release it and it is an ordinary acoustic piano again.

READING THE LETTERS AFTER THE MODEL NAME

LETTERS	BUILT	WHAT IT IS
S	1993 – 1999	The first Silent pianos
SX · SZ	1995 – 2001	Silent, later versions
SB	2001 – 2006	Silent, on the YU10, YU30 and YU50
SD · SG	2006 – 2012	Silent, standard (SD) and higher grade (SG)
SG2	2013 – 2018	Sampled from Yamaha's CFIIIS concert grand
SH	2013 – 2018	Sampled from the CFX concert grand, recorded binaurally for headphones
SH2 · SC2	2018 – 2021	CFX and Bösendorfer Imperial samples
SH3 · SC3	2022 –	The current generation
SXG · SEB	1997 – 2008	Silent Ensemble: Silent plus recording and playback
DKV · ENST	2009 –	Disklavier: the piano plays itself
TA	2015 –	TransAcoustic: the soundboard becomes the speaker, so digital sounds come from the piano itself

WHO IT SUITS

Apartments, shared walls, shift workers, and anyone who practises when the house is asleep. Headphones also let a beginner practise without an audience.

GOOD TO KNOW

On a Silent piano the middle pedal usually becomes the silent control, so there is no separate muffler felt. Japanese mains power is 100 volts, so the silent unit's power supply needs to be checked or changed for Australia's 230 volts. Each generation uses newer samples, so the later the letters, the better the headphone piano generally sounds.

RECALL

Silent Ensemble (SEB) pianos with serial numbers 6,095,681 to 6,264,935 were recalled by Yamaha in 2009 because a part could smoke or catch fire. See page 18.

GRAND PIANOS

pre-loved

A grand is the step many students and teachers are working towards: an action that repeats notes faster, a soundboard that faces the room, and a lid to shape the sound. These are the Yamaha grands you are likely to meet as Japanese imports.



1971 TO 1994

THE G SERIES

G1, G2, G3 and G5: Yamaha's grands for the home.

1967 TO 2012

THE C SERIES

C1 to C7, and above all the C3: the conservatory grands.

2012 TO TODAY

THE CX SERIES

The C series rebuilt with what Yamaha learned from its CFX concert grand.

1993 TO TODAY

SMALLER GRANDS

A1, GB1K, GC1 and GC2, for rooms that can't take a C3.

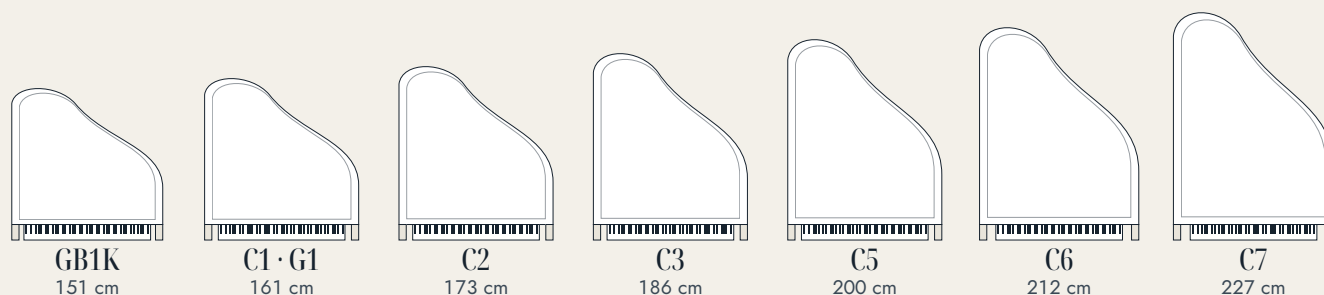
THE NUMBER IS THE SIZE

Japanese dealers group grands by the number in the name: 1 is about 161 cm long, 2 is 169–173 cm, 3 is 183–186 cm, 5 is 200 cm, 6 is 212 cm and 7 is 223–227 cm. So a G3 and a C3 are close in size; the letter tells you the series.

SIZE AND ROOM

measure twice

A grand's length is measured from the front of the keys to the tail. More length means longer strings and a larger soundboard, so more power and a fuller bass. It also means more floor.



Yamaha grands drawn to one scale, seen from above with the keyboard at the bottom. The GB1K is 146 cm wide, the C1 to C5 149 cm, and the C6 and C7 154–155 cm.

YAMAHA'S RULE OF THUMB FOR THE ROOM

GRAND	LENGTH	WALLS ADD UP TO	ABOUT A SQUARE ROOM OF
GB1K	151 cm	15.1 m	3.8 × 3.8 m
C1 · G1	161 cm	16.1 m	4.0 × 4.0 m
C2 · G2	173 cm	17.3 m	4.3 × 4.3 m
G3	183 cm	18.3 m	4.6 × 4.6 m
C3	186 cm	18.6 m	4.7 × 4.7 m
C5	200 cm	20.0 m	5.0 × 5.0 m
C7	227 cm	22.7 m	5.7 × 5.7 m

Yamaha suggests the room's walls should add up to at least ten times the piano's length, with about 60 cm behind the keys for the stool.

FLOORS

Grands weigh from about 260 kg to 415 kg on three legs. On a ground floor that is rarely a concern. For an upper floor or an older suspended timber floor, ask a builder or engineer first.

GETTING IT IN

The legs and pedal lyre come off and the body travels on its side on a piano board. Measure doorways, corridors and turns, and tell us about stairs before delivery day.

WHERE IT GOES

Away from direct sun, air-conditioning vents, bathrooms and in-floor heating, with the curved side and the open lid facing into the room.

THE G SERIES

the home grand

From 1971 to 1994 the G series was Yamaha's grand for the home, sold below the C series. Japanese dealers describe its tone as softer, and the C's as brighter and clearer. In 1994 the new C1 and C2 took over the G's sizes.

1971–1994	161–200	148–149	290–340
BUILT	LENGTH, CM	WIDTH, CM	WEIGHT, KG

MODEL	BUILT	LENGTH · WEIGHT	WHAT TO KNOW
G1B · G1E	Apr 1988 – Sep 1994	161 cm · 290 kg	Three pedals with sostenuto, and on Japanese examples a hand-operated practice muffler. Older G1s were made for export.
G2E	Jan 1971 – Sep 1985	169 cm · 300 kg	Usually two pedals, without sostenuto.
G2A · G2B	Sep 1985 – Sep 1990	not confirmed	The G2 had grown from 169 to 173 cm by 1990; the exact point is not confirmed.
G2E	Oct 1990 – Sep 1994	173 cm · 300 kg	Three pedals with sostenuto; hand muffler. Also made in a Chippendale cabinet.
G3E	Jan 1971 – Sep 1985	183 cm · 310–315 kg	Usually two pedals.
G3A · G3B	Sep 1985 – Sep 1990	about 183 cm	The generations between.
G3E	Oct 1990 – Sep 1994	183 cm · 315 kg	Three pedals; practice muffler as standard.
G5E	Jan 1971 – Sep 1985	200 cm · 340 kg	A 1976 example has two pedals.
G5A · G5B	Sep 1985 – Sep 1990	not confirmed	The generations between.
G5E	Oct 1990 – Sep 1994	200 cm · 340 kg	A 1991 example has three pedals.

WHO IT SUITS

A family home and a student's practice, where a grand's touch matters more than a concert sound. A G2 suits a smaller living room; a G3 wants a room of about 4.6 m square.

THE SAME NAME TWICE

Yamaha used the letter E twice: a G2E, G3E or G5E can be from 1971–1985 or from 1990–1994, and they differ (often two pedals against three). Always date a grand by its serial number. There was no G7 made for Japan after 1967.

THE C3

the conservatory grand

Launched in 1967, the same year as Yamaha's CF concert grand. No other Yamaha grand has been made in as many generations, and the changes between them are worth knowing.

MODEL	BUILT	WHAT CHANGED
C3	Jul 1967 – Dec 1970	The first C3, 183 cm long.
C3B	Jan 1971 – Sep 1979	183 cm, about 315 kg.
C3	Oct 1979 – Jan 1985	Now 186 cm and 320 kg, the size it has kept since. A 1980 example has only two pedals, so check.
C3A	Jan 1985 – Aug 1988	A 1986 example has three pedals.
C3B	Sep 1988 – Sep 1990	A short generation.
C3E	Oct 1990 – Sep 1994	Revised materials, according to Japanese dealers.
C3	Oct 1994 – Sep 1999	Launched alongside the new C1, C2 and C6.
C3L	Oct 1999 – Jun 2007	Yamaha revised the bass strings, stiffened the treble hammer shanks and set the long bridge on a maple and mahogany base, as on its concert grand. Adds a lid-prop stopper, a soft-close fallboard and "New Ivory" keytops.
C3LA	Oct 2003 – Jun 2007	Soundboard spruce and string wire from the same sources as Yamaha's S series.
C3	Jun 2007 – Aug 2012	Ivorite keytops, the curved music desk of the S series, three lid-prop positions, a key lock.
C3A	Jun 2007 – May 2008	The Artistic Edition, made for a year, with S-grade soundboard and wire and hand-wound bass strings.
C3XA	Sep 2008 – Jul 2012	Soundboard, ribs and back posts re-specified, and new string wire. Followed by the C3X.

WHO IT SUITS

Serious students, teachers and performers, and homes with a room of about 4.7 m square or more. From 1979 the C3 is 186 × 149 × 101 cm and about 320 kg.

LETTERS USED TWICE

C3B means 1971–1979 or 1988–1990. C3A means 1985–1988 or 2007–2008. A plain C3 was sold in four separate periods. The serial number is the only reliable way to date one.

C1 TO C7

one family, five sizes

The C3's design in every size from 161 to 227 cm. The suffixes follow the same pattern as the C3, so a C5L or C7LA belongs to the same generation as a C3L or C3LA.

SIZE	GENERATIONS	LENGTH × WIDTH	WEIGHT	WHAT TO KNOW
C1	C1 1994–99 · C1L 1999–2007 · C1 2007–12	161 × 149 cm	290 kg	The smallest C, from 1994. The C1L has acrylic keytops, a step below the C3L's.
C2	C2 1994–99 · C2L 1999–2007 · C2 2007–12	173 × 149 cm	300–305 kg	Also made in a Chippendale cabinet.
C5	C5 1979–85 · C5A · C5B · C5E · C5 1994–99 · C5L · C5LA · C5 2007–12	200 × 149 cm	340–355 kg	Japanese dealers call it ample for a home and able to serve a small hall.
C6	C6 1994–99 · C6L · C6LA · C6 2007–12 · C6XA	212 × 154 cm	400–405 kg	Added in 1994.
C7	C7 1967–75 · C7B · C7 · C7A · C7B · C7E · C7 · C7L · C7LA · C7 2007–12	227 × 155 cm	395–415 kg	The semi-concert grand. 1980s examples measure about 223 cm.

C3 OR C5?

Same width and height. The C5 is 14 cm longer and about 30 kg heavier, with a longer bass. If the room is 5 m square or more, it is worth playing both.

G OR C?

Yamaha priced the C above the G. In 1990 to 1994 a new G3E listed at ¥1,050,000 in Japan and a C3E at ¥1,300,000; a G5E at ¥1,350,000 and a C5E at ¥1,700,000.



THE CX SERIES

since 2012

In October 2012 the CX series replaced the C series. Yamaha describes it as the C rebuilt with what it learned developing the CFX, its concert grand.

MODEL	LENGTH × WIDTH	WEIGHT
C1X	161 × 149 cm	290 kg
C2X	173 × 149 cm	305 kg
C3X	186 × 149 cm	320 kg
C5X	200 × 149 cm	350 kg
C6X	212 × 154 cm	405 kg
C7X	227 × 155 cm	415 kg

WHAT CHANGED, IN YAMAHA'S WORDS

- Hammers use the same felt as the CFX, and the strings use new wire.
- On the C3X and larger, a back frame about 20% thicker, and the soundboard, ribs and bridge crowned by the CFX's method.
- A cabinet styled on the CF series, with a sturdier pedal box.
- Ivorite keytops, three lid-prop positions with a safety stopper, and a key lock.



A pre-loved 2016 C3X with a Silent system.

ALONGSIDE THE CX

C1TD and C3TD (from 2012): the older C cabinet, priced below the CX. **C3X espresso** (2021, revised 2026): a higher-grade C3X. **SX series** (S3X from 2017, S6X from 2018): thicker rim laminations and a CFX-type European spruce soundboard.

WHO IT SUITS

Performers, teachers and advanced students who want a recent Yamaha grand, and buyers who would otherwise buy new.

SILENT GRANDS

Silent versions add letters after the name, for example C3X-SH3. SH is the 2013 generation, SH2 2018 and SH3 2022. See page 21 for how Silent pianos work.

SMALLER GRANDS

for smaller rooms

Grands for rooms that cannot take a C3, and budgets that cannot either. The differences between them are mostly in where they were made and what the middle pedal does.

MODEL	BUILT	LENGTH · WEIGHT	WHAT TO KNOW
A1 · A1R · A1L	Oct 1993 – Feb 2011	149 cm · 269 kg	Japan's smallest Yamaha grand of its time, with a sostenuto pedal. Yamaha described it as fitting a room of about 10 m ² .
Z1 · Z1B	Nov 2003 – Feb 2007	151 cm · 273 kg	Two pedals only, no sostenuto.
GB1K	2009 – 2025	151 cm · 261 kg	Made in Indonesia. On the Australian model the middle pedal sustains only the bass; the Japanese model has a sostenuto. Production ended when Yamaha Indonesia stopped making pianos in December 2025.
GC1	export model	161 cm · 285–290 kg	Made in Japan, with a simpler cabinet and synthetic keytops than the C1. The 2009 update added a sostenuto and a soft-close fallboard. Sold in Japan only as a Silent piano (GC1S, GC1SN, GC1SG).
GC2	2009 –	173 cm · 305 kg	The size of the C2 at a lower price.
GCB · GC1	2026 –	151 cm · 275 kg (GCB)	A new GC series made at Kakegawa, sharing the CX's basic design. Too new to be found pre-loved yet.

WHO IT SUITS

A first grand for a home that wants one, in a room of about 4 m square. Play a good 131 cm upright as well before you decide: at this length the two are closer than most people expect.

MIDDLE PEDALS, AGAIN

Ask what the middle pedal does on the piano in front of you: sostenuto, bass sustain, or nothing on a two-pedal model. It depends on the model, the market it was made for and the year.

WHAT TO BUDGET

by era and size

Indicative prices for pre-loved Yamahas in Victoria and New South Wales, September 2026. Each piano is priced on its own condition, so use these to match a model to a budget, then come and look at the piano.

UPRIGHTS

MODELS	BUILT	ABOUT
U1H · U1M · U1A	1972–1987	\$4,000 – \$5,800
U10BI · U10A · U100	1987–1997	\$5,500 – \$6,700
U3H · U3M · U3A	1972–1987	\$4,500 – \$6,700
U30BI · U30A · U300	1987–1997	\$5,800 – \$7,900
X series, 121 and 131 cm	1975–1997	\$5,000 – \$10,000
YUA · UX5 to UX500	1978–1997	\$6,500 – \$13,500
YU1 · YU3 · YU5	1997–2001	\$7,000 – \$9,500*
YU10 · YU30 · YU50	2001–2006	\$7,500 – \$11,500
YU11 · YU33	2006 –	\$9,000 – \$13,000*
YUS1 · YUS3 · YUS5	2006 –	\$11,000 – \$17,000

GRANDS

MODELS	BUILT	ABOUT
G1 · G2 · G3 · G5	1971–1994	\$12,000 – \$20,000
C3 · C3A · C3B · C3E · C3	1979–1999	\$17,000 – \$25,000
C3L · C3LA · C3 · C3XA	1999–2012	\$25,000 – \$37,000
C5 and C7	1979–2012	\$28,000 – \$45,000
CX series	2012 –	\$35,000 – \$45,000*
GB1K · GC1 · GC2	2009 –	\$10,000 – \$19,000*

WHAT MOVES THE PRICE

Condition first: hammers, strings and action work done recently are worth paying for. Then the finish (walnut and Chippendale cabinets cost more), a Silent system, and how recent the generation is.

Ranges are drawn from asking prices for comparable pianos in Victoria and New South Wales in September 2026. * An estimate: few comparable pianos were on sale, so these are set below the price of the same model new. For current stock and exact prices, see signaturepianos.com.au or call 0479 128 955.

MADE FOR JAPAN

an honest note

Pianos first sold in Japan and later brought to another country are sometimes called "grey imports". You may read warnings about them, so here are the facts on both sides.

WHAT YAMAHA SAYS

Yamaha says it seasons the wood in each piano for the climate of the country it is first sold in, and that a piano made for Japan's humid climate can suffer in very dry indoor air. Yamaha gives no factory warranty on pianos outside the country of their first sale, and Yamaha Australia's warranty excludes pianos bought or imported from overseas.

WHAT INDEPENDENT EXPERTS SAY

The independent guide Piano Buyer looked into these warnings and called them exaggerated. Its advice: choose a piano from the mid-1980s or later in good condition, keep the humidity steady where the air is very dry, and buy with a warranty of at least five years from the seller.

WHAT WE DO ABOUT IT

Every piano we sell comes with our own 10-year warranty, and every one is checked in our Mount Waverley workshop before it goes on sale. We tell you the year of every piano we sell.



LOOKING AFTER IT IN MELBOURNE

STEADY AIR, REGULAR TUNING

A piano is mostly wood, and wood moves with the air around it. In Melbourne the harm comes from indoor heating in winter and hot, dry northerly days in summer.

- Place it against an inside wall, out of direct sun, and away from heaters, fireplaces and air-conditioning vents.
- Keep the room's humidity as steady as you can. A small humidifier helps in winter if your heating dries the air.
- Have it tuned at least once a year, and twice if it is played every day.
- Keep the lid closed when it is not being played, and dust it with a soft dry cloth.
- Use piano movers to move it, even to another room.

TEN CHECKS

on any piano

Use this list on any pre-loved piano, ours or anyone else's. Bring the person who will play it, and give it at least twenty minutes.

1 · EVERY KEY

Play each key softly, then firmly. Listen for notes that buzz, rattle, stick, repeat unevenly, or keep ringing after you let go.

3 · THE HAMMERS

Ask to see inside. Deep grooves in the hammer felt mean heavy playing. Hammers that have been reshaped or replaced are a good sign, not a bad one.

5 · THE TUNING

Ask when it was last tuned and whether it holds its tuning. A piano that will not stay in tune needs a technician's opinion before you buy it.

7 · WHAT HAS BEEN DONE

Ask what work the piano has had: tuning, regulation (adjusting the action), voicing (the tone of the hammers), new strings, hammers or dampers.

9 · THE PAPERWORK

Ask what the warranty covers and for how long, who delivers it, and whether the first tuning in your home is included.

2 · EVERY PEDAL

The sustain pedal should lift all the dampers together and let them fall cleanly. The muffler should drop evenly across the keyboard.

4 · THE SERIAL NUMBER

It is stamped on the iron frame, under the lid. Check it against the table on page 8 to see when the piano was made.

6 · THE SOUNDBOARD

Fine cracks are common in older pianos and are not always a problem. A buzz that follows certain notes can mean a rib has come loose, which is repairable but worth knowing about.

8 · THE CABINET

Look at the finish, the lid hinges, the fallboard and the castors. Cosmetic wear is fine if the price reflects it.

10 · YOUR EARS

Play the same piece on two or three pianos, one after another. The one you keep coming back to is usually the right one.

FROM JAPAN *to your home*

Every piano we sell was chosen in Japan, photographed there before import, and checked in our Mount Waverley workshop before it reached the showroom floor. This is what comes with it.

DELIVERY

WHITE-GLOVE

Tracked from start to finish. You pick the day and time window in your customer portal, we place the piano where you choose, and we send a photo once it is in position.

WARRANTY

TEN YEARS

A 10-year warranty on every piano, with the certificate emailed to you as soon as delivery is confirmed.

TUNING

FIRST ONE INCLUDED

A piano settles into a new room over its first weeks. We come back and tune it three to four weeks after delivery, at no charge.

HOW IT WORKS

FROM OUR FLOOR TO YOURS

- 1 **Come and play.** Book a visit to the Mount Waverley showroom and try as many pianos as you like.
- 2 **Choose your piano.** We tell you its model and year, and answer anything this guide doesn't.
- 3 **Book the delivery.** Choose the day and time window that suits you in your customer portal.
- 4 **It arrives.** White-glove delivery, a photo once it is in place, and your warranty certificate by email.
- 5 **We come back.** Your first tuning, three to four weeks later, once the piano has settled into the room.



Signature PIANOS

Come and play

Every piano in this guide sounds different in person. Book a visit and play as many as you like.

63 BLACKBURN ROAD, MOUNT WAVERLEY VIC 3149
0479 128 955 · INFO@SIGNATUREPIANOS.COM.AU
SIGNATUREPIANOS.COM.AU

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