Didgeridoo Buyers Guide

How to choose the right didgeridoo when
you are buying online and can't play it first.



The short version

1. **Listen first.** Every didgeridoo on the site has a sound sample of that exact instrument being played. Trust your ears before anything else.
2. **For a first didge, pick a key in the middle,** anywhere from C to E. The very deep and the very high ones are harder to learn on.
3. **After a big, booming sound?** Look for a wide bell end and a longer didge.
4. **Paint, polish and timber are about looks, not sound.** Choose the one you like looking at.
5. **Price follows the maker's time and the artwork.** A plain natural didge can play as well as a painted one.

What changes the sound, and what doesn't

Feature	Changes the sound?	What it means for you
Key (the note)	**Yes**	Low keys such as A and B drone deep. High keys such as F and G sound brighter.
Length	**Yes**	Longer plays lower. Of two didges in the same key, the longer one is more resonant.
Bell end	**Yes**	A narrow end gives a tight sound. A wide end gives a big, cavernous one.
Mouthpiece	**Comfort only**	Beeswax is soft and can be shaped to fit your mouth.
Painted or natural	**No**	Purely looks.
Timber	**Not much**	The maker's work and the size of the didge matter more than the species.
Price	**Not directly**	It reflects the maker's time and the artwork.

Key (the note)

The key is the note the didgeridoo drones in. There is no best key. It comes down to the sound you like.

- Each didge has one main note, set by how the tree grew and how the termites hollowed it out.
- Deep keys such as A and B give a low drone you feel in your chest. Higher keys such as F and G sound brighter.
- Don't read music? Ignore the letters and play the sound sample on each didgeridoo's page.
- Starting out, aim for the middle: the best keys to learn on are C to E. The biggest, lowest didges take a lot of air, and a middle key helps you improve faster.



Watch the video (1:24)

Deep

Low, rumbling drone.

A | A# | B

Middle

The best keys to learn on.

C | C# | D | D# | E

Higher

Brighter sound, shorter didge.

F | F# | G | G#

Each key links to the didgeridoos we have in stock in that key.

Length

Longer didgeridoos play lower notes. Shorter ones play higher.

- On a long, low didge your lips vibrate slowly. On a short, high one they vibrate faster.
- Two didges can share a key at different lengths. The longer one usually has more resonance and a richer sound.
- Choosing for a beginner or a child? Skip the extremes and go for something in the middle.

[Browse all didgeridoos]



Watch the video (2:06)

Bell end

The bell end is the bottom of the didge, where the sound comes out. Its width sets how big the didge sounds.

- A didge that stays about the same width all the way down has a tight, focused sound.
- A wide, flared bell end gives a big, cavernous, resonant sound.
- After a real wall shaker? Pick a big bell end, then turn your speakers up and play the sound sample.



Watch the video (1:25)

Mouthpiece

A comfortable fit matters more than what the mouthpiece is made of.

- Most didgeridoos have a beeswax mouthpiece. It is soft, comfortable and smells great.
- Where the termites have left a smooth, even opening there is no wax, just natural timber. Some players prefer that.
- Beeswax can be reshaped. When your didge arrives, press and pinch the wax until it fits your mouth.

[Beeswax mouthpiece kit]



Watch the video (1:24)

Painted or natural

The finish does not change the sound. It is purely about looks.

- There are three finishes: plain natural eucalyptus, the same timber polished to a gloss, or painted by an Aboriginal artist.
- Painted didgeridoos are listed with the artist's name and where in Australia they were made.
- Two didges with the same finish still sound different, so listen to each one.

Natural finish didgeridoos · Hand painted didgeridoos



Watch the video (1:04)

Timber

Don't worry about the type of eucalyptus when you buy your first didgeridoo.

- There are over 1,000 types of eucalyptus in Australia, and termites favour different ones in different regions.
- No timber is the best. Asking for bloodwood because someone said it is the best is like buying a red didge because red is your favourite colour.
- The maker's craftsmanship and the size of the didge do more for the sound. Timber is a subtlety to explore once your ear develops.



Watch the video (1:11)

Price

Price mostly reflects the time the maker put in and the artwork.

- Lower-priced didges are cut close to termite country and made in larger numbers, usually with a natural or polished finish.
- A high-end maker may spend days finding the right tree, then work it by hand: cleaning out the bore for resonance, chisel work and tuning the toot.
- Artwork adds to the price, from dot painting to ochre applied with a chewed grass brush on a traditional yidaki.
- We buy direct from the makers, and each price reflects the work that went into that instrument.



Watch the video (2:28)

What your budget gets you

PVC and travel didgeridoos	from $120
Natural finish eucalyptus	from $200, most between $500 and $1,200
Hand painted	from $520
Performance didgeridoos	from $850
Traditional Arnhem Land yidaki	from $1,380

Australian dollars, didgeridoos in stock in November 2026.

Which didgeridoo for where you are at

Your first didgeridoo

1. Decide whether you want artwork or a natural finish. That halves the choice straight away: hand painted or natural finish.
2. Play the sound samples and pick a sound you like in a middle key. What you hear is one of us playing that exact didge.
3. Zoom in on the photos and look the didge over.
4. Nothing jumping out? Tell us your budget and the sound you like and we will help you pick one.



Watch the video (1:34)

Your second didgeridoo

1. Mix it up. If your first didge is short and high, try a longer, deeper one.
2. Expect a challenge: a deep didge needs slower lips and different pressure. You will be a better player for it.
3. Try different artwork or a different maker as well.



Watch the video (1:14)

A didgeridoo for the advanced player

1. High-end listings carry as much detail as we can give: bell end and mouthpiece size, timber, maker, note, toots and overtones.
2. Each one has a recording of that exact didge being played.
3. Start with performance didgeridoos and traditional Arnhem Land yidaki.
4. Want to talk it through first? Get in touch. Talking didges is what we do.



Watch the video (1:30)

Before you add to cart

- [ ] I have listened to the sound sample on good speakers or headphones.
- [ ] I know the key, and it suits where I am at (C to E for a first didge).
- [ ] I have checked the length and the bell end against the sound I want.
- [ ] I know whether the mouthpiece is beeswax or natural timber.
- [ ] I chose the finish for its looks, not for its sound.
- [ ] I have zoomed in on the photos.
- [ ] I have checked shipping to my country.

Compare your shortlist

Print this page and fill in a column for each didgeridoo you are weighing up.

	Didgeridoo 1	Didgeridoo 2	Didgeridoo 3
Name or number			
Key			
Length			
Bell end (narrow or wide)			
Mouthpiece			
Finish			
Price			
How it sounds to me			

Still not sure?

Tell us what you are after: your budget, the sound you like and how long you have been playing. We will point you to a didgeridoo that fits. Contact us at didgeridoobreath.com/contact-us.