Buffet Crampon is firmly fixed, through its history and its name, in the tradition of the manufacture of top of the range wind instruments. Since 1825 the brand has developed around a know-how of exceptional instrument manufacture. This heritage remains the guarantee of recognition of our products “Made in France” and “Made in Germany”.

This know-how is complex and valuable because it takes a long time to acquire and requires dedication and patience to pass on. At Buffet Crampon, we frequently measure the training period in years. It involves the recruiting of young apprentices who are passionate about the instrument-making profession, ensuring we have the means to pass on to them the taste for the exceptional work and putting them to work with experienced people so that they can gradually acquire and develop the apprenticeship received. This know-how allows the identity and memory of all the instruments to be forged.

Thus for nearly 200 years, musicians have continued to find artistic excellence and the passion of music with Buffet Crampon instruments. In a collusive and intuitive dialogue with the most renowned artists, the brand’s ambition is to combine tradition with modernity, know-how with creation, history with innovation, in order to offer wind instruments of reference.
1976: The student bassoon Evette is created. It is made until 1995.

1979: The first Prestige RC bassoon is produced (BC5013).

1992: René Lesieux and Jean-Louis Capezzali develop the Prestige oboe (BC3613), which replaces the 1950s model by Robert Carré and Pierre Pierlot.

In the 1990s, the W. Schreiber student oboes are modified and produced under the name of Buffet Crampon.

1994: Chérif Touati and Jean-Louis Capezzali develop the Prestige oboe in GreenLinE (BC3613G), Buffet Crampon’s new composite material.

2000: The new Prestige RC bassoon model is launched (BC5613), developed by René Lesieux and Gilbert Audin since 1998.

2005: Chérif Touati starts work on a new cor anglais (English horn), the Prestige model.

2010: The cor anglais Prestige makes its debut at the Frankfurt Music Fair.

2012: The oboe Orfeo, developed by Chérif Touati in collaboration with an international team of professional musicians, is presented at Frankfurt and immediately very well received.
African blackwood, also referred to as “Grenadilla”, or M’Pingo in Swahili, is the wood of choice today for the manufacture of most wind instruments. This very hard wood, which is so dense that it does not float, lends itself well to turning, does not crack or split and is resistant to humidity. Once it is finished and polished, its aspect is superb. The tree, Dalbergia Melanoxylon, is a member of the rosewood family; the timber is of varied hues, from dark violet to a purplish brown.

Due to its irregular growth, finding a straight vein in the wood that is appropriate for the manufacture of the instruments is extremely hard. The “music tree” grows mainly in the African savannah, primarily in Mozambique and Tanzania. This tree takes a full eighty years to reach its average size of nine meters, and the wood requires several more years for the drying and treatment processes before it can be used.

It is therefore not surprising that African grenadilla wood is considered a precious resource. Well aware of sustainability issues, Buffet Crampon has developed a composite material made of reconstituted African blackwood (Dalbergia Melanoxylon), recycled from production.

Green Line is an international trade mark filed in 1994 by Buffet Crampon and still protected. It permits the conservation of 100% of the acoustic properties of traditional instruments while ensuring an incontestable reliability and longevity, as it does not crack or split when it suffers a climatic change, which is a great source of concern to oboists. Green Line provides the instrument bore with a dimensional consistency that is not vulnerable to the test of time.

Bassoons, on the other hand, have a different tradition. While a variety of maple is used for German bassoons, the French bassoon is made from Rio palisander (Dalbergia nigra), another member of the rosewood family. Also very stable and resistant to humidity, but slightly lighter than blackwood, it assures the very specific timbre of the French bassoon.
Solderer

Due to the specific demands of the different keys, various brazing techniques are employed: using a blowtorch, a soldering oven, or induction heat. The life span of a key will greatly depend on the precision of the solderer’s work. It requires concentration, rigour, and particular attentiveness, as high temperatures are involved.

Wood turner

He fashions and forms the blanks and turns them into instrument bodies. He uses the wood in a near-raw state, cut into logs and seasoned. By cutting away the chips he brings out the veins of a piece of wood that has been carefully selected. Once he has turned several lots of all the body parts, he will match them up with care. Attentive, meticulous, he has the craftsman’s touch and the adjuster’s eye.

Sander and polisher

This workman’s skill lies in his touch. An essential link in the quality chain, the sander skillfully adapts his gestures to each part of the instrument he works on. He smooths the curves, matches the colours, harmonizes the figure of the wood, and prepares the pieces for finishing.

Bore fitter

This craftsman sets the stage for the acoustics of the instrument. Reaming the bore to its exact dimensions requires rigour and close attention to detail. The know-how to recreate the richness of Buffet Crampon’s unique sound is passed on over generations, and this experience and expertise is gathered over many years. The secret lies in this craftsman’s tools and his careful gestures.

Key maker

Skilled dexterity and patience are vital to the shaping and assembling of the many small parts that make up the keywork of the instrument. The key maker is meticulous and patient—he files, trims, drills, deburs, sands, and checks the quality of each part. The quality of his work will determine the fit and the final appearance of the keys.

Post fitter

Drilling, reaming, milling, threading—each is an essential step in preparing the various posts, or pillars, for receiving the instrument’s keys. Each of these jobs is carried out on a watchmaker’s level of precision.

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Drilling, reaming, milling, threading—each is an essential step in preparing the various posts, or pillars, for receiving the instrument’s keys. Each of these jobs is carried out on a watchmaker’s level of precision.
Finisher
The instrument takes on its final appearance at this phase of the work. The finisher mounts the keys, levers, rings, octave tubes, screws, springs, corks, pads . . . the keys finally take on the names of their notes. The men and women in the finishing workshop carry out this extraordinary job with elegant calm and patience.

Tester
All of the wind instruments are tested by musicians before leaving the factory. The tester carefully checks the tuning and intonation, as well as the impeccable functioning of the mechanical elements of each instrument. The test room resonates with arpeggios, glissandos and solos, a final rehearsal before the instrument goes out into the world.

Other tasks
Several other skills and gestures are involved in the manufacture of our instruments. Each step is as important as those described above, involving technical draftsmen, tool makers, metal smiths, buffers, programmers, tone-hole drillers, silver platers, quality control specialists, acoustics specialists, researchers. Behind all of these trades and skills lies the historic brand of nearly two hundred years, but it is the men and women themselves, deeply invested in the quality and transmission of their craft, who preserve and pass on our exceptional savoir-faire.

“Our craft, the making of high quality instruments, is a vocation guided by our savoir-faire, the work of artists. Our greatest asset is our ability to pass this craftsman’s heritage down to future generations.”
Orfeo comes to us out of a collaboration between the Buffet Crampon Research and Development team and a group comprising testers, masters and soloists from renowned international orchestras. It is the fruit of labour of a distinguished team, demanding five years of research to attain the level of excellence that is rare in instrument making.

Its entire register creates a sensation of excitement with incomparable low tones, consistent over the whole range, and a wonderfully easy flow. Orfeo unites modern materials of utmost reliability with the handcrafted, traditional quality of its manufacture. Without question, the Green LinE material has been used to its maximum technical capacities.

With its unembellished body contours and black tip rings, Orfeo emanates elegance and displays its unique and contemporary personality.

This new instrument joins the Prestige models in the professional range of oboes. This marks a major achievement in the Buffet Crampon brand’s history as much on a human as a technological level. It is a true reflection of the alliance between the heritage of French instrument making, the close relationship between Buffet Crampon and great musicians from all over the world, and state of the art technology to the benefit of all.

Orfeo distinguishes itself as much in the orchestra as in chamber music.

Willing response, flexible yet stable, homogenous throughout the registers.

**TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS**

- **Pitch:** 440 ↔ 443 Hz
- **Body**
  - Green LinE
  - black tip rings
  - tenons and sockets metal-lined
  - tenon caps
- **Keyword**
  - French conservatoire system
  - 3 octave keys, semi-automatic
  - left hand F lever
  - highly reliable keyword, silver-plated nickel silver
  - adjustable thumb rest (new design)
- **Pads**
  - cork / GT (bottom notes)
- **Case**
  - High Tech metallic silver and black leather
- **Options**
  - gold-plated keyword
  - thumbplate keys
- **Delivered with accessories**

REFERENCE

BC3663G

Thumbplate option: F3611AG
With the experience gained from international soloists, Buffet Crampon is continually improving the ergonomics and acoustics of its instruments.

The Prestige oboes come in automatic and semi-automatic versions; a thumbplate is available as an option. They distinguish themselves by their open yet firm character, allowing musicians of all backgrounds to take on any repertoire, whether orchestral, chamber music, or as a soloist.

The fluid, dynamic ease and comfort of Buffet Crampon oboes are widely appreciated.

**REFERENCES**

- **African Blackwood**: BC3613
- **Green Linéa**: BC3613G
- **Thumbplate option**: F36111AG

**THE BUFFET CRAMPON PRESTIGE OBOES ARE PROFESSIONAL INSTRUMENTS OF VERY HIGH QUALITY, AVAILABLE IN AFRICAN BLACKWOOD OR GREEN LINÉA COMPOSITE MATERIAL.**

**PRESTIGE 3613 & 3613G**

**PRESTIGE OBOES**

**TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS**

- **Pitch**: 440 ↔ 443 Hz
- **Body**:
  - African Blackwood (grenadilla), natural finish (BC3613)
  - Green Linéa (BC3613G)
- **Keywork**:
  - conservatoire
  - silver-plated nickel silver
  - adjustable thumb rest
  - 3 octave keys, semi-automatic
  - left hand F lever
  - C♯ trill, double D trill
  - Philadelphia system
  - low B♭/C♯ trill
- **Pads**: cork / GT
- **Tenons**:
  - metal-capped
  - wooden tenon protectors
- **Case**:
  - wooden “pochette” case covered in fine leather
- **Options**:
  - gold-plated keywork
  - thumbplate keys
- **Delivered with accessories**

**Optional thumbplate keys**
The Buffet Crampon English Horn, or Cor Anglais, matches the quality of the brand's professional oboes. Its exceptional acoustics and precise intonation and response will meet the demands of the orchestral as well as chamber musician.

The Prestige model offers a refined tone, and a full and ample sound that gives it a musical character that never fails to impress. It has benefited from years of development thanks to input from musicians in orchestras all over the world. Today, this top-of-the-line instrument allows musicians to master the transition from the oboe to the English horn with ease, thanks to its relatively light weight and its ergonomic keywork.

The Buffet Crampon English Horn is an instrument of strong personality.

**TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS**

**Pitch:** 440 ↔ 443 Hz

**Body**
- Green Lin/E

**Keyword**
- fully automatic system
- silver-plated nickel silver
- gold-plated keywork optional
- adjustable thumb rest
- 3 octave keys, fully automatic
- left hand F lever
- C♯ trill, double D trill
- Philadelphia system
- low B/C♯ trill

**Case**
- wooden “pochette” case covered in fine leather

Delivered with accessories

**REFERENCE**
BC4713

**TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS**

**Pitch:** 440 ↔ 443 Hz

**Body**
- carefully chosen African blackwood (grenadilla), natural finish
- tenons metal-capped
- tenon prote
- French conservatoire
- 3 octave keys, semi-automatic
- keywork silver-plated nickel silver
- gold-plated keywork optional
- C♯ and duplicate D trills

**Keyword**
- left hand F lever
- duplicate G♯ and Eb
- low B/C♯ trill
- adjustable thumb rest

**Pads**
- cork / GT (bottom notes)

**Case**
- wooden “pochette” case covered in fine leather

Delivered with accessories

**REFERENCE**
BC3643G
The new generation of Buffet Crampon student oboes introduces several technical improvements to the line, made with beginners and amateur players specially in mind:
- a new design for the plateau keys providing the same ease and feel as the professional line of Buffet Crampon oboes
- a new ergonomic layout for the spatulas making playing more comfortable for all sizes of hands
- new adjustment screws with large heads, ensuring highly accurate regulation
- new sturdy, long-lasting octave vents

The student line of Buffet Crampon oboes covers the whole range, from instruments specially designed for children to fully equipped models. Standing out among the line’s strong points is a body in African blackwood (Grenadilla) with a resin-lined bore, making the instrument highly crack resistant. This is why Buffet Crampon student oboes are considered the most reliable on the market, and come with a 10-year guarantee against cracks.

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**CONSERVATOIRE 4052**

**TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS**

- **Pitch:** 440 ↔ 443 Hz
- **Body:** African Blackwood (Grenadilla), bore resin-lined
- **Keywork:** Full conservatoire, 3 octave keys, semi-automatic, left hand F lever, C♯ trill, double D trill, low B/C♯ trill, double G♯ and Eb
- **Bell:** Bb with resonance key
- **Pads:** Cork and double skin
- **Case:** Wooden “pochette” case covered in high-quality black vinyl, case cover delivered with accessories

**SIMPLIFIED 4011**

**TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS**

- **Pitch:** 440 ↔ 443 Hz
- **Body:** African Blackwood (Grenadilla), bore resin-lined
- **Keywork:** Simplified conservatoire, 2 octave keys, semi-automatic, double G♯ and Eb
- **Bell:** B resonance hole
- **Pads:** Cork and double skin
- **Case:** Wooden “pochette” case covered in high-quality black vinyl

Delivered with accessories
THUMBPLATE 4151 & 4121

The thumbplate system, as well as the combination of semi-automatic conservatoire and thumbplate systems, corresponds to the British school of playing in particular. The keywork is precise and reliable. Thanks to the bore lined in Luracast, these oboes are very crack-resistant.

REFERENCES
BC4151
BC4121

TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS
Pitch: 440 ↔ 443 Hz
Body: African Blackwood (grenadilla), bore resin-lined
Keywork:
- conservatoire
- 2 octave keys, semi-automatic
- thumbplate system
- F lever (BC4151)
- high D trill (BC4121)
- high C# and double D trills (BC4151)
- double Eb
- double G# (BC4151)
- extends to low Bb

Pads:
- cork and double skin

Case:
- wooden “pochette” case covered in high quality black vinyl
- case cover (BC4151)

Delivered with accessories

FULLY AUTOMATIC 4057

The fully automatic system allows to operate all the 3 octave keys by only one touch.

REFERENCES
BC4057

TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS
Pitch: 440 ↔ 443 Hz
Body: African Blackwood (grenadilla), bore resin-lined
Keywork:
- automatic
- 3 octave keys, fully automatic
- left hand F lever
- C# trill, double D trill
- low B/C# trill
- double G# and Eb

Pads:
- cork and double skin

Case:
- wooden “pochette” case covered in high quality black vinyl
- case cover

Delivered with accessories

BELLS
- Bb with resonance key
Based on the experience gathered since 1825, Buffet Crampon has developed a model for our times. The bore and tone hole layout have been reworked, the keywork optimized, the butt joint plug redesigned, and the finishing constantly improved. The sound has become larger, more homogenous, and the bottom notes respond with ease.

The instrument comes in two versions, either with the traditional bell or the new resonance bell.

**TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS**

- **Pitch:** 442 Hz
- **Bocal:**
  - silver-plated or lacquered copper
- **Body:**
  - Rio rosewood
  - tenons metal-capped
- **Keywork:**
  - silver-plated
  - double C# key (thumb)
  - “croissant” key
  - low D key guard
  - various adjusting screws for easy regulation
- **Pads:**
  - leather
- **Case:**
  - traditional wooden case covered in high resistance cordura
  - rucksack straps
- **Resonance bell:**
  - optional: specify upon order
  - as a spare part
- **Delivered with accessories**

**REFERENCES**

BC5613
BC5613R (with bell resonance)
Resonance bell (spare part):
F36112RAG

**PRESTIGE BASSOON 5613**
YOUR INSTRUMENT HAS BEEN MADE WITH AN OPTIMUM OF CARE. IN ORDER TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE IT, AND TO OPTIMISE ITS ACOUSTICAL AND MECHANICAL QUALITIES, WE METICULOUSLY SELECT THE BEST POSSIBLE ACCESSORIES FOR IT.

ACCESSORIES

A CAREFULLY SELECTED LINE

All Buffet Crampon instruments are delivered with a case and accessories. Buffet Crampon have taken great care in putting together a line of accessories that perfectly suits the specifics of each instrument.

We recommend that you always wipe your instrument after each use. The Buffet Crampon pull-throughs are specially designed to fit the dimensions of the bore. They have been developed in close collaboration with the manufacturers and with professional musicians.

Specially designed cases, made in the traditional way out of wood or using modern technology such as thermoforming, will effectively protect your instrument. A choice of case covers, light-weight and practical, completes the catalogue.

Whether you are a professional or amateur, your instrument is of great value to you, so take good care of it.

To receive a complete list of available accessories, please write to accessories@buffet-group.com.

ACCESSORIES FOR FRENCH BASSOON

ACCESSORIES FOR OBOES
BUFFET CRAMON'S AMBITION IS TO BRING ALL INSTRUMENTS IN THE WOODWIND FAMILY TO THE HIGHEST LEVEL. ITS EXCEPTIONAL SAVOR-FAIRE IS REPRESENTATIVE OF A LIVING HERITAGE THAT HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED AND PROTECTED. THE PERSONALITY OF ITS SOUND IS A SIGNATURE THAT IS REMARKABLE AND SOUGHT AFTER. LAST BUT CERTAINLY NOT LEAST, COUNTLESS MUSICIANS DEVELOP A STRONG ATTACHMENT TO OUR INSTRUMENTS, DEMONSTRATED BY UNFAILING LOYALTY TO OUR BRAND AND AN AFFECTIONATE RESPECT FOR THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO CONTINUE TO PRODUCE MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS WITH A PRIORITY ON TRADITIONAL VALUES. WELCOME TO THE BUFFET CRAMON FAMILY.

IMPORTANT MOMENTS IN OUR HISTORY

1825
The French instrument maker Denis Buffet-Auguer sets up his workshop in the heart of Paris, at 20 Passage du Grand Cerf. He rapidly becomes well-known in the musical community by producing excellent 13-key clarinets.

1836
Jean-Louis Buffet, Denis' son, marries Zoe Crampon in 1836 and creates the famous Buffet Crampon brand name.

1844
The logo used today is first created. It appears on all of the instruments created by the company.

1850
The Buffet Crampon workshops are moved to Mantes-la-Ville (Yvelines, France). The first o Buffet Crampon Bb clarinet system clarinet is made.

1866
Buffet Crampon creates its first saxophones, 20 years after the invention of this instrument by the Belgian Adolphe Sax.

1870
Buffet Crampon creates the Green Line, a material that designates composite of reconstituted African blackwood that keeps 100% of the acoustic properties and provide incontestable reliability and longevity for the instruments.

1900
At this year's World Exposition, Evette & Schaeffer (Buffet-Crampon & Cie) expose 226 instruments, wood and brass. Eye-catcher is a metal contrabassoon.

1907
The double reed pages of the Evette & Schaeffer catalogue feature 14 oboe models of various systems in Bb, C, Db and Eb, pastoral oboes in G and Ab, oboe d'amour in A, musettes in Ab, 8 different cor anglais and baryton oboes, 18 bassoon types in C, D, and E, simplified bassoons in F and G, as well as contrabassoons in wood and metal.

1908
The Buffet Crampon Group acquires two famous brass instrument brands: Antoine Courtois Paris (created in 1853) and Besson (created in 1857).

1910
The company continues to pursue its strategy of industrial independence, and through a new acquisition of a factory in Germany (Markneukirchen), it is able to produce student models of oboes and clarinets. The group, under the leadership of its Chairman, Antoine Beaussant, continues to grow in the wind instruments sector, with the entry into the group of two new brands: Wenzel Schreiber (clarinets and bassoons) and Julius Keilwerth (saxophones).

2005
The acquisition of a clarinet factory located in la Couture Boussey in the Eure department (France) enables the company to expand Buffet Crampon's production.

2006
The Buffet Crampon Group acquires two famous brass instrument brands: Antoine Courtois Paris (created in 1853) and Besson (created in 1857).

2008
The Buffet Crampon Group becomes Buffet Group. This new identity brings together all group brands with one single vision, to become the “Global Reference in Wind Instruments”.

2012
The Buffet Crampon Group becomes Buffet Group. This new identity brings together all group brands with one single vision, to become the “Global Reference in Wind Instruments”.

2014
Buffet Crampon's history is marked by a number of moments and events that reflect its desire to innovate.