

THE "X" Yamaha Professional Upright Series

Restored Yamaha X series pianos are available in short supply

- The first X series was introduced in Japan as an upgrade of U3. It was called UX.
- It has a unique X shaped back post and slightly different fall board on the outside.
- In the inside, it uses superior material in the action parts and sound board.
- In the early 1980's, the 48" version of X series was introduced as an upgrade of U1. It was called YUS.
- Below is a quick glance chart that will explain the diagnostic features of this series.

48" X Series

Year / Model / Feature

- 1980-1982 YUS
- 1982-1988 UX1
- 1988-1990 UX10BL
- 1990-1994 UX10A Larger Music Desk
- 1994-1997 UX100 Larger Music Desk



TYPICAL "X" SERIES PIANOS – Radial back / Style / Agraffes

52" X Series

Year / Model / Feature

- 1975-1980 UX
- 1980-1982 YUX
- 1982-1988 UX3
- 1988-1990 UX30BL Larger Music Desk
- 1990-1994 UX30A Larger Music Desk
- 1994-1997 UX300 Larger Music Desk

52" Special X series

Year / Model / Feature

- 1978-1982 YUA Large Music Desk, Agraffes, grand piano style fall board etc
- 1982-1988 UX5 All the feature of YUA plus sostenuto
- 1988-1990 UX50BL Same as above
- 1990-1994 UX50A same as above
- 1994-1997 UX500 same as above

The original, new retail price of X series instruments was about 30% higher than the U series and the Special X series was about 60% higher. This would mean that in order to purchase a Special X series 52" Upright, the cost would have been approximately \$17,000 for the X series and about \$10,000 for the standard U3. Those fortunate enough to own one of these pianos usually kept it for a long time. KeyArts constantly searches for these premium pianos for the professional musician and instructor. Call KeyArts Houston 281-488-2055 or KeyArts@att.net

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND INSIGHT INTO THE "X" SERIES PIANOS

Many people are misinformed about the differences between these models.

We have been selling U1 and U3 pianos for many years. They are fantastic instruments, both new and second-hand. Alongside of the U1/U3 models we always try to have in stock the UX range; UX1 UX3 and UX5 and other X models. Whilst these models are exactly the same size as the standard U series pianos, it is possible to have a different standard of instrument. For example; Steinway model K and Yamaha U3, virtually identical in size but in fairness a different standard of instrument (also a different price ticket).

The UX series is mostly recognized from the X bracing on the back of the piano. However, this is by no means the only difference. All the UX series pianos are manufactured using higher grade materials than the standard U series pianos. Externally the UX series all have the famous X bracing on the back, adding more strength to the construction of the piano. The front panel is vented to allow more sound from the front of the instrument.

Internally the bass strings are longer on the UX models than the standard U model pianos, even though the pianos are the same in height. Yamaha has achieved this by curving the bridge at the bottom of the piano. Higher grade wood and felt are used on hammers and dampers on all UX models.

The UX5 model also boasts having balanced and extra weighted keys and agraffes as opposed to a pressure bar and Sostenuto pedal feature. The newer version of the UX5 (YUS5) does not have agraffes fitted, and we can only put this down to manufacturing cost, as it is a less expensive option to fit a pressure bar. A pressure bar works fine but agraffes work slightly better. This is why on grand pianos only agraffes are used and Sostenuto pedal is now fitted as standard.

The difference between the U series and UX series pianos may seem slight on their own, but brought together they do make for quite a different instrument, especially for those who know. You don't have to be a piano technician to see and understand the differences mentioned in these UX pianos.

Yes, the Yamaha U1 and U3 pianos are very popular. However, there are plenty of other models made by Yamaha which we feel are just as good and in some cases better to wit, the X series. If you are lucky to own an X series piano you would of course know the advantages of this very high-end piano. It might happen at a gathering in your home, where your friends may see, play or hear your Yamaha X model and they may inquire if they could get one also. In which case you could say with all honesty... "probably not!" The X series pianos are rare to find and rarer yet, those who own and know about them.

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