

YAMAHA U1/UX1 U3/UX3 U5/UX5
What is the difference? U series/ UX series

Many people are misinformed about the differences between these models. We have been selling U1 and U3 pianos for over 20 years. They are fantastic instruments, both new and second-hand. Alongside the standard U1/U3 models we sell UX range; UX1 UX3 and UX5. These models are exactly the same size as the standard U series pianos, but there is a different standard of instrument.

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 high quality 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 additional 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 and 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 the agraffe as opposed to a pressure bar and sostenuto pedal feature. The use of the sostenuto pedal would have to be a very accomplished pianist.

I am aware that the newer version of the UX5 (YUS5) does not have agraffe's fitted, we can only put this down to manufacturing cost, as it is a less expensive option to fit a pressure bar. In my opinion, a pressure bar works fine but agraffe's work slightly better. This is why on grand pianos only agraffe's are used and sostenuto pedal is now fitted as standard.

The difference between the U series and UX series pianos I have mentioned may seem slight on their own, but brought together they do make for quite a different instrument. You don't have to be a piano technician to see and understand the differences I have mentioned in these UX pianos. Yes, the Yamaha U1 and U3 pianos are very popular.

You can't go wrong with the X series. If you want top grade piano that has been restored in Japan, you will have a piano for life. X series are scarce because owners keep them for a lifetime. We are lucky to get only 2 or 3 per month and they go very fast.

C. Anthony Pessarra