

How to Ship Your Flute

Regular annual maintenance of your flute or piccolo by an experienced technician will keep your instrument in top playing condition. In many cases, this will require shipping your instrument to a technician specializing in handmade flutes and piccolos. Here are some steps you can take to make this process simple for you and safe for your instrument.

Identify Your Property

When preparing to ship your instrument, retain a copy of the serial number. Include a note of identification inside your flute case including your name, address, telephone number and e-mail address if applicable. Having identification inside the case will help to identify your property should the exterior of the package be defaced or the package misrouted. This information also provides identification of your property for your technician and a means with which your technician can contact you. If you prefer to have your instrument returned to a separate address (such as a work address), make a note of this as well.

It is helpful to include a note for your technician outlining any problems your instrument is having and what your expectations are. Your technician will contact you upon receipt of your instrument regarding repairs needed, estimates and return delivery time.

Packing Your Instrument

Safety for your instrument is a priority when packing for shipment. Options available for safe packing include:

Custom shipping box

Custom shipping boxes are made specifically for shipment of flutes and piccolos. The box is rectangular in shape designed with several inches of foam rubber on all sides of the instrument for maximum protection. This relatively compact carton is less expensive to ship than larger boxes. Miyazawa Flutes, Ltd. offers fine custom boxes to our repair customers. Please [contact us](#) if you wish to purchase one of our custom shipping boxes.

Your own packaging

If a custom flute box is not an option, you may package the instrument yourself. In this case, use a sturdy box large enough to accommodate 6 to 8 inches of crumpled newspaper or packing material on all sides. You may add layers of bubble wrap around your instrument case to provide further protection. When taping the box, use tape specifically designed and marketed as "packaging tape."

Shipping store or professional packaging

There are shipping companies that specialize in both packing and shipping. This is a convenient service as they will securely pack and ship your instrument, but you may pay a premium for such service. These costs may be added to shipping fees and to shipping insurance.

Shipping Companies

Not all shipping companies are the same. Depending on your situation and location, prices may vary between companies. It may be worth your time to shop around and find the best price as you would do for any other product or service. In our experience, reliable choices include:

- Federal Express (FedEx) – We use this service for the majority of our shipping needs. Extremely reliable with many shipping options. Offering Saturday delivery service for residential addresses with no additional charge. **3-day air**
- United Parcel Service (UPS) – Many shipping options with good prices for insurance. Offering Saturday delivery service with an additional charge.

Insurance - Protecting Your Property

Be sure to protect your valuable instrument. Homeowner's policies may not cover instruments during shipping. Check with your agent to learn the terms of your policy!

If you are a member of the [National Flute Association](#), you are eligible to purchase insurance through the Clarion insurance company. This insurance provides coverage during travel and/or shipment of your instrument.

Most shipping service companies offer insurance. Please contact your service of choice for details on purchasing insurance for shipments.