



WILHELM HECKEL

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Bassoon

1.1 Where can I find my instrument number?

The instrument number of your Heckel bassoon can be found at the lower end of the boot joint, the U-tube. To get to the U-tube, you must carefully disconnect the cup from the boot joint.

1.2 How can I get information about my Heckel bassoon?

For more information about your Heckel bassoon, please feel free to send us a request by e-mail to: mail@heckel.de or use our contact form.



instrument number



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Contrabassoon

2.1 Where can I find my instrument number?

The instrument number of your Heckel contrabassoon can be found at the bottom of the small wooden bow.

2.2 How can I get information about my Heckel contrabassoon?

For more information about your Heckel contrabassoon, please feel free to send us a request by e-mail to: **mail@heckel.de** or use our contact form.



instrument number



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Heckelphone

3.1 Where can I find my instrument number?

The instrument number of your heckelphone can be found below the thumb rest on the rear of the lower part.

3.2 How can I get information about my heckelphone?

For more information about your heckelphone, please feel free to send us a request by e-mail to: mail@heckel.de or use our contact form.



instrument number



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S-Bocals

4.1 Which S-bocal will suit me and my instrument?

We offer a wide range of Heckel S-bocals consisting of various alloys, diameters, diapasons, lengths and galvanisations. So you will find the right bocal for all your needs and occasions. Since the compatibility of the right S-bocal is always influenced by the individual musician, the instrument played and the mouthpiece used, we always recommend to play an S-bocal sample. The following statements serve as a rough guideline for determining the right S-bocal.

Base Metals

Original Heckel S-bocals are available in various base metals. This is depicted with one letter above the cork.

Base Metal	Sound Quality	Labelling above the cork
German silver, soft	Standard Type	N
German silver, hard	Harder sound than CC	Z
Gold Brass	Mellow and quiet sound for chamber and church music	G
Sterling Silver (925)	Bright and quiet sound	AG
Gold 8 Carat (333)	Mellow but direct sound	AU
Gold 14 Carat (585)	Noticeably mellower sound	14kt
Gold 18 Carat (750)	As 14kt, but more accentuated	18kt
Palladium	Hard sound	PD



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S-Bocals

Wall Thicknesses

Original Heckel S-bocals are available in two different material thicknesses. The standard variant has a wall thickness of 0.6 mm. S-bocals with a thinner wall thickness of 0.5 mm are labelled with an additional “D”. S-bocals with a thinner layer of metal have an overtone rich sound spectrum, along with good responsiveness and more flexibility in terms of intonation; they are however less stable and not suitable for all instruments in equal measure. The labelling of Heckel S-bocals has grown unsystematically out of the historical tradition. Usually Heckel S-bocals with thick walls are manufactured in soft German Silver (N) and hard German silver (Z). A thick walled bocal in soft metal is labelled CC; a thick walled bocal in hard metal is labelled C. With thin walled bocals the hardness labelling of the material only appears in the letters above the cork however.

Diapasons

Original Heckel S-bocals are available with the following diapasons.

Thick walled	Thin walled	Properties
C, CC	CD	Standard Type for new Heckel bassoons Well balanced Intonation, good responsiveness.
CE, CCE	CDE	Narrower on the narrow side. Increased responsiveness in the higher register.
VC, VCC	VCD	Advanced Diapason. Better „tuning within itself“ for use with old Heckel bassoons and those from other makers.
VCE, VCCE	VCDE	Combination of V and E.
B	BD	Strong bellied diapason. Very light responsiveness in the high register. Bad intonation in the mid range.
BB	BBD	Light bellied diapason. Light responsiveness in the high register. Bad intonation in the mid range.



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S-Bocals

Lengths

Original Heckel S-bocals are available in different lengths in order to manipulate the overall tuning.

00	0	1	2	3
ca. 446 Hz	ca. 444 Hz	ca. 442 Hz	ca. 440 Hz	ca. 438 Hz

Galvanisations

Non-galvanised	Specific sound of the relevant base material
Silver plated	Pleasanter, fuller sound
Nickel plated	Brighter sound
Gold plated	Increased stability with Gold-Brass-S-bocals

XL-Bocals

All original Heckel S-bocals are available in XL-Variants. With this product the Nipple (Piano mechanism vent) is modified to better responsiveness in the high register.

R-Bocals

All original Heckel S-bocals are available in R-Variants. With this product the metal is compressed more strongly and evenly which leads to better responsiveness and a wider sound spectrum. R-S-bocals are labelled exclusively underneath the cork and have no stamp.

S-Form / S-Bends

Original Heckel S-bocals are manufactured in the traditional S-Form as well as in a flat bend (English bend). Over and above this we manufacture custom made bends to order (Drawings).



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S-bocal selection

5.1 How can I order a selection?

A selection of S-bocals can be ordered by e-mail to **mail@heckel.de** or via our contact form. For the initial contact, you only need to enclose your contact information (name, address) and a copy of your identity card. By specifying your desired S-bocal type (metal, length/number, galvanisation, bending) we can then prepare your selection ready to send it to you.

5.2 How long can I keep a selection for testing?

You may keep your selection for a maximum of two weeks.

5.3 How many S-bocals can I order per selection?

You may order a maximum of eight S-bocals per selection. It should be noted, however, that the fulfilment of the order quantity is always dependent on our stock levels.

5.4 To which countries can selections be sent?

Selections can be sent to all countries that are members of the European Union.

5.5 How do I return my selection?

The method of returning your selection is described on the letter accompanying the selection.

5.6 How and when will I receive the bill?

As soon as we have received the return of your selection, we will send the invoice by post to the address specified by you or, if desired, by e-mail.

5.7 How do I pay the bill?

Once you receive the invoice you can pay by bank transfer, credit card or Paypal.



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Bassoon orders

6.1 How are Heckel bassoons tuned?

Around 90 % of our bassoons are produced with the basic tuning of 442 Hertz.

6.2 Which type of wood is used in the construction of Heckel bassoons?

Due to changes in species protection regulations, we use exclusively European sycamore maple (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) when building our instruments.

6.3 What do the rings / stripes on the instrument mean?

As standard, we make our instruments with the rings / stripes, which are typical of Heckel. These rings, which are purely for visual purpose, can be dispensed with on request.

6.4 How is the colour applied to the instrument?

As standard the colour is applied to the instrument with the varnish, resulting in a uniform effect. On request, the colour can also be applied directly on to the wood in form of wood stain. This leads to a less uniform colouring, which emphasises the natural wood structure and creates a 'living wood' effect. Stain colours cannot be ordered as "light" or "dark", because their shades depend solely on the original wood structure.

6.5 How are the mechanisms galvanised?

As standard, our bassoons are delivered with silver plated mechanisms. Due to changes in legislation, nickel can no longer be used to galvanise musical instruments. The protective coating of metal parts that was previously used is omitted due to environmental reasons.

6.6 When is a divided long joint recommended (Gentleman)?

Our bassoons are built with a long joint as standard. For better transport, especially on an airplane, we recommend the divided long joint (Gentleman), so the instrument can be carried, in most cases, as hand luggage. Numerous tests have shown that the different construction methods do not bring any advantages or disadvantages regarding sound, intonation or response. The decision should be made solely from an aesthetic or economic point of view.

6.7 When is a longer / shorter long joint recommended?

Due to the law of physics, intonation is not always pure in the threshold range of wind instru-



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ments. Bassoons tend to have a higher tuning, particularly in the depth. This can be altered slightly by extending the long joint on the narrow side. We recommend an extension for the so-called “second bassoon”. For use in solos, we recommend avoiding the extension.

6.8 What are brass rings on the long joint for?

Brass rings on the long joint prevent the tenons from cracking. With careful handling, the rings can be dispensed with. Numerous tests have shown that the different construction methods do not bring any advantages or disadvantages regarding sound, intonation or response.

6.9 What causes the additional lining of the wide side of the boot joint?

As standard, our bassoons are made with a rubber lining in the wing joint and the narrow side of the boot joint. To protect the wide side of the boot joint an additional rubber lining can be inserted here. We only recommend this if you have significant problems with moisture, such as when working in areas with high humidity.

6.10 What causes the lining of the finger holes?

As standard, our bassoons are built without a lining of the finger holes. To protect against moisture in the finger holes, which could potentially destroy the wood, a rubber or silver lining can be ordered. However, we recommend lining the finger holes with protruding silver tubes, because, on the one hand, they simplify tuning and, on the other hand, they also reduce gurgling noises caused by water in the tone holes.

6.11 What should be considered for cork on the tenons?

As standard, our bassoons are made with a yarn or thread winding. This thread also protects the tenons from cracking which may appear as a result of careless handling. If cork is required on the tenons, we strongly recommend the additional attachment of brass rings on the long joint for protection.



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Protection of Species

7.1 Are parts of my instrument subject to the Washington Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)?

The convention on international trade in endangered species of animals and plants (CITES), concluded in 1973, has also applied in Germany since 1976. This convention permits the import and export of protected animals and plants as well as parts or products thereof only with the necessary and valid documents.

Materials covered by the Washington Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and used in the production of Heckel instruments in the past are African blackwood, palisander, rosewood and ivory.

Whether your Heckel instrument contains any of these materials depends on the year of manufacture of your instrument. We will be glad to give you more information.

+++ ATTENTION +++

Please note that **instruments with components made of African blackwood, palisander, rosewood or ivory** are not permitted to be sent from **non-EU countries** without valid **CITES documents**.

We are **not allowed** to accept aforesaid instruments that are sent to us **without** valid CITES documents. In this case we are legally obliged to report these instruments to the German customs, that confiscates and **no longer releases** them.

7.2 Where can I obtain valid CITES documents?

Please inquire with the authorities responsible for you about the receipt of the required CITES documents. You can obtain further information on the import and export permit and re-export certificate valid for Germany from the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation or at **<https://www.bfn.de/themen/cites/antragstellung.html>**

7.3 Where can I get a manufacturer confirmation about the materials of my instrument?

We will be glad to send you a manufacturer's confirmation, which provides information about the materials used for your Heckel instrument.