

## **What's the difference between gift batons and presentation batons?**

Basically, we distinguish between batons which can be used by someone to conduct musicians and those which are intended solely to honor a career, an accomplishment, a significant contribution, *et cetera*. Batons in this latter group are too heavy to be used by ordinary folk because of the density of the exotic woods used in their creation.

But each of the gift batons is based on our standard line of batons with varying embellishments (ribbons, walnut base, engravable plaques), so they'll do just fine for a music teacher, or orchestra or choral conductor. There is also some variety in lengths and handle types available so that, if you wish, you can approximate what you see the baton recipient has been using.

## **I have a very limited budget but want to give someone a nice baton. Any suggestions?**

The most economical approach would be to purchase one of our Spectrum range of batons and an accompanying acrylic carrying case. Along with a thoughtful note, that would be a nice and not-very-expensive gift. If you feel lucky, you could take a very small nibbed indelible ink pen (generally referred to in the USA as a "Sharpie"), and write something very brief and very small on the shaft of the baton. In this situation, no errors are allowed because of the permanent quality of the ink. The result would be not too much money spent and a nice gift in hand.

## **If I have a choice of baton length and don't know what the recipient might like, what advice might you give me?**

When we started, the most popular length of baton - we're talking our standard batons now - was 12" (measured from tip to the base of the handle.) In recent years, we've been selling more 14" batons, but we also have batons up to 18" long. With gift batons, you can select the length and the handle style, but there is **not** this flexibility in our presentation batons - they're made to a standard 18" length to make a noteworthy display and, to reiterate, they are not meant to be used in conducting. That written, our "Bravo" gift baton is the one exception - it is 14" long.

## **OK, so in the gift batons, when there's a choice of handle type, which do I pick?**

Again, if you can see what the recipient is using now, you'll know. If not, then there's not much advice we can give you, although the pear seems to fit better in the palm of the hand. That written, we sell more tapered handled batons than pear shaped. Comments about fitting or not fitting notwithstanding, it's a matter of taste. Some people are surprised to see that a shape different from tapered is available, because when they think baton, they think the tapered handle is the only choice...or perhaps should be. Again, it's up to you.

## **How long does it take between the time I order and the time you ship the baton?**

Like so many other things in our world, that depends. If the shaft is to be imprinted, we'd like to have two business days to produce your custom baton. The imprinting process is done by

hand, and there are times of the year when we are very busy, and things get backed up a bit - think April through June and November-December.

### **What if I'm late ordering and need the baton right away...anything you can do?**

We do offer rush service for an additional cost, and what you need to know is that a rush order discombobulates production schedules, so we have to interrupt the scheduled work flow to deal with the order, and there is an additional expense in that.

We can ship using different expedited services - UPS, FedEx, and Express Mail, so if you have some flexibility in terms of time, you might be able to avoid our rush service, although the increase in shipping expense needs to be considered.

### **Why am I limited to 24 characters and spaces when imprinting something on the baton shaft?**

A baton has a continuously changing circumference, so the space available to print at a readable size is limited. Sometimes we can add a letter or two if the handle is pear shaped (shorter than tapered, so more room). Other times we can imprint a second line, and yes, that costs a bit more (because line alignment is an issue and the probability of having to take several whacks at the imprinting raises our costs).

### **Some of your upper range of batons have engravable metal plates (brass, stainless steel, sterling)...how should I think about that?**

Here's the short answer and the long answer: The basic plaque is 3 inches long by 1/4 inch high, and - at present - we do not offer engraving (we are working on that problem and hope to have it solved by June, 2008, in order to simplify ordering for you). For individuals who require more engraving space, we can make available a single plate in lengths up to 12 inches.

For the moment, you should allow an extra day or two at your end for engraving on the metal plaque.

### **Some of your batons seem really expensive...why?**

Two major reasons - the cost of acquiring exotic woods (Gabon ebony, in the case of the Ovation baton) and the amount of time required to produce each one. While some of the raw materials we use comes from other countries, the production of our batons occurs here in the Upper Midwest of the USA.

### **Why don't you offer a wood display case for these batons?**

Well, we see that as something of an oxymoron. A wooden case hides the baton, so one is compelled to pick it up, open it, and then the baton and plaque and such can be seen.

We prefer what might be called a quiet display which does not demand an explanation but invites it instead. We use clear acrylic or butyl square tubes, so the baton is always in plain sight; the act of seeing it invites a question from a visitor, and one avoids the issue of - perhaps being thought of as a show off.

Like wood, the clear material protects the baton, but the presentation with a walnut base, colored ribbons, and plaque attracts the eye. And there's no need to open (or close) our display.

### **Do you ship anywhere?**

Well, mostly...wherever the US Post Office says delivery is available, in other words. As it is, we ship to a great many countries, so that even if the destination you want is not on our list, just let us know, and we'll investigate and report promptly. Where countries outside the USA are concerned, we prefer to ship by Express mail - because it is the fastest available service, it is insurable, and we can track the delivery right to your door.

That written, we need as much time as possible when orders are outside our borders. We have no control over post offices/postal authorities in other countries, just as we have no control over import duties and taxes in those places, and delivery always seems to take just a bit longer than you - and we - think it should.

### **And if I have more questions...?**

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